

WORK PROGRAMMING

Purpose of the Report

1. To present information which enables Members to discuss and agree the way forward for constructing the Committee's work programme for 2020/21.

Background

2. The Constitution states that each Scrutiny Committee will set its own work programme for the forthcoming year (Scrutiny Procedure Rule 7). The Committee is tasked with constructing a work programme for the year ahead that ensures the time available to the Committee is used most effectively, by considering items that maximise the impact of scrutiny in a timely fashion.
3. Following the health pandemic of Covid-19, and the ease of lockdown restrictions, the Council has started to implement, on a phased basis, restart and recovery plans for the city and Council services, whilst continuing to prioritise urgent and essential business.

4. A report agreed by July's Council confirmed that each of the five standing scrutiny committees of the Council during the restart period would undertake the following:

- (a) Pre-decision scrutiny of all Cabinet decisions, where appropriate and proportionate to do so;
- (b) Scrutinise any issues which are time critical and or may have a significant adverse reputational impact on the Council; and
- (c) Develop priorities for potential scrutiny consideration during 2020/21, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet member/s and Directors

5. Meeting dates for the five Scrutiny Committees are currently in the development stage to be considered at Council on 24 September 2020.

6. This Committee's terms of reference give the Committee responsibility for scrutinising, measuring and actively promoting improvement in the Council's performance in the provision of services and compliance with Council policies, aims and objectives in the area of community and adult services, including:

- Public and Private Housing
- Disabled Facilities Grants
- Community Safety
- Neighbourhood Renewal and Communities First
- Advice and Benefits
- Consumer Protection
- Older Persons Strategy
- Adult Social Care
- Community Care Services
- Mental Health and Physical Impairment
- Commissioning Strategy
- Health Partnership

7. In addition, this Committee is the designated Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee for the Council and as such has responsibility for scrutinising the Community Safety Partnership.

Developing a Work Programme

8. Under normal circumstances, the Committee constructs the work programme at the beginning of the municipal year and it is updated periodically during the year. Following the agreement at July's Council, during the restart period Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme will initially be led by the Cabinet's Forward Plan.
9. In setting their work programme for 2020/21 Members are advised to consider and agree three key areas of work to prioritise in the upcoming year.

Way Forward

10. During the meeting, Members may wish to:
 - I. Discuss and agree the approach to developing the Committee's work programme for 2020-21, so that a version of the programme is brought back to the Committee for formal approval. Members may also wish to raise particular issues of interest for inclusion in the Committee's work programming discussions.

Legal Implications

11. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

12. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- I. Discuss and agree the approach to developing the Committee's work programme for 2020-21, so that a final version of the programme can be brought back to the Committee for formal approval.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance & Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

8 Sep 2020