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**ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME  
PLANNING 2020/21**

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**Background**

1. The Constitution states that each Scrutiny Committee will set their own work programme. This is traditionally undertaken at the beginning of a municipal year and updated as the work progresses, however, due to the current Covid crisis the start of the process for 2020/21 has been delayed. As with other years, the work programme needs to be carefully constructed so that the time available to the Committee is used most effectively.
2. The Environmental Scrutiny Committee's Terms of Reference provide the Committee with the responsibility for the scrutiny of a number of specific service areas. A copy of the terms of reference has been attached to this document as **Appendix 1**. This will remind Members of the scope of ideas that could be considered.
3. The Committee is responsible for the scrutiny of a number of policies and strategies that affect the sustainability and environment of Cardiff. It can also undertake investigations into any of these areas.
4. The construction of a work programme involves obtaining information from a range of sources, these may include:
  - Information from the relevant Directorate;
  - Relevant extracts from the current Corporate Plan;

- Suggestions and ideas put forward by the previous Environmental Scrutiny Committee;
  - Member suggestions and observations;
  - Citizen and third party comments and observations;
  - Performance information.
5. The topics gathered from the sources identified above have been recorded in a document titled 'Environmental Scrutiny Committee – Potential Work Programme Items 2020/21'. This document has been provided to Members to help them prioritise items for the Environmental Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme 2020/21 and is attached to this report as **Appendix 2**.
6. The topics in **Appendix 2** have been broken down by a number of themes / areas relevant to the terms of reference of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee. The themes are:
- Transport;
  - Energy Schemes;
  - Highways (including Parking Management);
  - Planning;
  - Shared Regulatory Service;
  - Cleansing & Waste Management;
  - Bereavement & Registration Services;
  - Other;
  - Mandatory Items.
7. The Committee will also need to agree the format and type of scrutiny to be undertaken, examples include:
- **Policy Development & Review** – Where the Committee contributes to the Council's policy development processes by considering draft policy documents or existing policies.
  - **Inquiries** – Where the Committee undertakes an examination of a topic over a period of time, via a task & finish group, resulting in a formal report to the

Cabinet. These can be short inquiries, such as deep dives, or longer inquiries, as required.

- **Short Scrutiny Studies** – Where the Committee examines a particular service or issue over one or two committee meetings. Frequently such scrutiny activity results in a letter being sent to the relevant Cabinet Member with recommendations or comments.
- **Pre Decision** – Where the Committee evaluates and comments on proposals before they go to the Cabinet, giving the Cabinet the opportunity to reflect upon Scrutiny views prior to making their decision.
- **Monitoring Performance & Progress** – Where the Committee undertakes monitoring of the Council's performance and progress in implementing actions previously agreed.

8. When developing a scrutiny work programme it is important prioritise where work resources are allocated. This means that items should be prioritised to ensure quality over quantity, achievability, deliverability and impact. In following this approach items should:

- **Focus** – Be based on issues that impact on Cardiff citizens.
- **Add Value** – Where possible enhance the work of the Council in delivering services to our citizens.
- **Involve** - Involve partners, stakeholders and the public in scrutiny process.
- **Demonstrate Flexibility** – The work programme should be reviewed regularly to reflect changing priorities.
- **Agreed by Committee** – Work programme items should be agreed by the whole Committee working as a team.
- **Thematic** – The Committee should consider wider issues rather than only focusing on Council services.
- **Balance** – The work programme should be balanced and include items from across the terms of reference.

- **Team work** – In delivering the work programme councillors should leave party politics at the door, work as a team and focus on wider issues that impact on all Cardiff citizens.
9. Once the Member priorities are agreed then the Chair will meet with the Principal Scrutiny Officer to review the items and place these into a draft work programme. The 'Environmental Scrutiny Committee – Draft Work Programme 2020/21' will be tabled as an item at the Environmental Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November. At this point it is hoped that the Committee will, subject to any potential alterations, agree the work programme for the period November 2020 to March 2021. The Environmental Scrutiny Committee work programme will be reviewed and updated during the 2020/21 municipal year to reflect resources and changing priorities.
  10. In setting their work programme, Members have been mindful of Wales Audit Office advice for scrutiny committees to aim to achieve committee meetings that last no longer than three hours, whilst maintaining robust and appropriate levels of scrutiny across the terms of reference, by ensuring agendas are of a manageable size and that work occurs outside committee meetings. Members agreed in principle with this approach and agreed to aim to achieve this, with the option to adjourn a committee meeting if more time is required than originally anticipated. This is particularly relevant during the Covid crisis as meetings will be held remotely.

### **Way Forward**

11. Members should consider the list of potential topics contained within **Appendix 2**, and agree a number of work programme priorities for the Environmental Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2020/21.

### **Legal 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 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**

13. 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.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is recommended to:

- i. Consider the contents of this report; and,
- ii. Agree a number of priorities for the work programme.

**DAVINA FIORE**

**Director of Governance & Legal Services**

**30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**