

Sustainable Development Select Committee			
Title	Select Committee Work Programme	Item	7
Contributor	Scrutiny Manager		
Class	Part 1	Date	5 February 2013

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To advise Members of the Select Committee of the work programme for the municipal year 2012/13.

2 Summary

- 2.1 At the beginning of the municipal year, each select committee drew up a draft work programme for submission to the Business Panel for consideration.
- 2.2 The Business Panel considered the proposed work programmes of each of the select committees on 24th May 2012 and agreed a co-ordinated overview and scrutiny work programme. However, the work programme is a 'living document' and as such can be reviewed at each Select Committee meeting so that Members are able to include urgent, high priority items and remove items that are no longer a priority.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 The Select Committee is asked to:
- note the work programme and project plan attached at **Appendix B** and discuss any issues arising from the programme;
 - specify the information and analysis required in the report for each item on the agenda for the next meeting, based on desired outcomes, so that officers are clear on what they need to provide;
 - note all forthcoming executive decisions, attached at **Appendix C**, and consider any key decisions for further scrutiny.

4. The work programme

- 4.1 The work programme for 2012/14 was agreed at the meeting of the Committee held on 25th April 2012 and at Business Panel on 24th May 2012.
- 4.2 The Committee is asked to consider if any urgent issues have arisen that require scrutiny and if any existing items are no longer a priority and can be removed from the work programme. Before adding additional items, each item should be considered against agreed criteria. The flow chart attached at **Appendix A** may help Members decide if proposed additional items should be added to the work programme. The Committee's work programme needs to be achievable in terms of the amount of meeting time available. If the Committee agrees to add additional item(s) because they are urgent and high priority, Members will need to consider

which medium/low priority item(s) should be removed in order to create sufficient capacity for the new item(s).

5. The next meeting

5.1 The following reports are scheduled for the next meeting:

Agenda Item	Review Type	Link to Corporate Priority	Priority
Employment and business development review	In-depth review	Strengthening the local economy	High
Impact of the Localism Act on Lewisham	Standard review	Community leadership	Medium
Recycling contract	Performance monitoring	Clean, green and liveable	Medium

5.2 Impact of the Localism Act on Lewisham

5.2.1 As part of its 2012/13 work programme, the Committee has decided to scrutinise the impact of the Localism Act on Lewisham. In order to inform discussions about this subject and to enable Members to direct their requests for information, the main elements of the legislation have been set out below.

5.2.2 The Localism Act (2011) created significant changes in these key areas:

- Local government powers and obligations
- Rights for communities
- Rights and reforms in the planning system
- Housing

5.2.3 The sections of the Act that deal with new community rights and changes to the planning system are of relevance to the Sustainable Development Select Committee.

5.2.4 Community Right to Bid (Assets of Community Value)

Information about the Community Right to Bid (Assets of Community Value) was presented to Mayor and Cabinet on 16 January. The right to bid came into effect in September 2012. It allows community groups to nominate assets for registration by the Council. Assets must meet set criteria before they can be registered and added to the Council's list of 'Assets of Community Value'. Once an asset has been added to the list it becomes subject to new rules about how it can be sold. The power is designed to provide community groups with greater opportunities to take over and run community assets before they can be sold on the open market.

The report to Mayor and Cabinet set out the process for recording assets of community value. It also included the legal and financial implications of creating and maintaining the

local list of assets. It can be accessed here:

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s19584/Assets%20of%20Community%20Value.pdf>

5.2.5 Neighbourhood planning

This new power enables a formally constituted neighbourhood forum to create a neighbourhood plan. These plans have to fit with existing plans and they must be designed to enable development, rather than hindering it. The Council has published its approach to neighbourhood planning on its website:

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/planning/policy/ldf/neighbourhood-plans/Pages/default.aspx>.

To date, there have not been any formal expressions of interest from any groups wishing to be designated as neighbourhood forums.

5.2.6 Community Right to Challenge

This power enables groups specified by the Act to express their interest in running Council services. Officers in finance, legal and procurement are preparing information about the 'right to challenge', which will be available on the Council's website later in the year. To date there have not been any formal expressions of interest in the 'right to challenge' in Lewisham.

- 5.2.7 The Department for Community and Local Government has produced a short guide to the act, which provides further information about the new powers and provisions:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/5959/1896534.pdf

6. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, all scrutiny select committees must devise and submit a work programme to the Business Panel at the start of each municipal year.
- 7.2 There may be legal implications arising from items on the work programme and all activities undertaken by the Select Committee will need to give due consideration to this.

8. Equalities Implications

There may be equalities implications arising from items on the work programme and all activities undertaken by the Select Committee will need to give due consideration to this.

9. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 13 March 2013.

Background Documents

Lewisham Council's Constitution

Centre for Public Scrutiny the Good Scrutiny Guide

Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process

