

Sustainable Development Select Committee		
Title	Select Committee work programme	
Contributor	Scrutiny Manager	Item. 9
Class	Part 1 (Open)	12 March 2014

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Select Committee with an overview of the work programme.

2. Summary

- 2.1 At the beginning of the municipal year each select committee is required to draw up a work programme for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel. The Panel considers the proposed work programmes of the six overview and scrutiny select committees and coordinates activities between them in order to maximise the use of scrutiny resources and avoid duplication.
- 2.2 The meeting on 12 March is the last scheduled meeting of the Sustainable Development Select Committee in the 2013-14 municipal year, as well as the last meeting of the 2010-14 Council administration. This report provides a brief overview of the Committee's work in the 2010-14 administration in preparation for the development of the 2014-15 Committee work programme.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Select Committee is asked to:
- note the completed work programme attached at **Appendix B**;
 - consider the core issues covered in the 2010-14 administration;
 - consider any matters arising that it may wish to propose for future scrutiny.

4. Sustainable Development Select Committee 2010-2014

- 4.1 The Sustainable Development Select Committee has had an important role to play in the oversight and development of a number of areas of strategic importance over the last 4 years. The Committee has carried out four in depth reviews and made a number of recommendations for improvement, via referrals to Mayor and Cabinet/Council or partner organisations. The work of the Committee, and the evidence-based recommendations it has made, have had a direct impact on the development of both policy and service delivery in a number of areas. Below are some examples of the Committee's work:

4.2 Financial inclusion

In the wake of the financial crisis and resulting recession, the Committee resolved to consider the impact of financial exclusion in Lewisham. Members sought to deepen understanding of the nature of financial exclusion in the borough and to put forward possible responses to the issues they encountered.

It was recognised that there was good work being carried out in the borough but the Committee found that the different responses to exclusion would benefit from an improved level of coordination.

The Committee lobbied for the creation of a multi-agency financial inclusion partnership, which it felt should be involved in outreach, campaigning, coordination and capacity building. As a result of the Committees work, a multi-agency financial inclusion forum has been set up, which has a remit to explore issues of inclusion in the borough and develop coordinated responses to issues facing marginalised citizens.

4.2 Preserving local pubs

The Committee was deeply concerned about the noticeable decline in the number of local pubs. Building on detailed analysis of Lewisham's pub trade by the Council's planning service the Committee explored some of the issues facing pubs in Lewisham. The Committee found that as well as having the potential to be a popular local business, pubs might also provide community facilities and a meeting places for social groups; it was also evident that some local pubs occupied buildings of architectural interest or were of value to their communities as local landmarks.

The Committee heard that pubs were exposed to unsympathetic developments, from which they could only be partially protected by the planning system so it recommended that the Council create an exemplar development management policy for the protection of pubs. The result of this work was the implementation of a new planning policy, which provides detailed guidance on determining planning applications and establishes an enhanced requirement for pub viability assessments in order to preserve valued local pubs.

4.3 The Bakerloo line

The Committee commissioned a study of options for the extension of the Bakerloo line into the borough¹ - in order to support the continued development of Lewisham's transport network and respond to the identified need for improved transport connections. The study set out a range of opportunities and drawbacks for the extension of the line. This work, and the Committee's solid backing of the proposals, led to a full feasibility study being commissioned by Transport for London.

¹ Potential Options for Bakerloo Line Extension towards South East London: [Sustainable Development Select Committee 14 September 2010](#)

The Committee has actively influenced thinking in the borough about the future of transport infrastructure and potential options for the extension of the Bakerloo line. Moreover, the Committee has proposed that the work programme for 2014/15 includes additional scrutiny of the proposals for the Bakerloo Line – alongside further investigation in to plans for the DLR and London Overground.

4.4 Parking

The Committee has been heavily involved in Lewisham's parking policy review. Recognising that parking is an issue of importance for communities across the borough, the Committee invited community groups and stakeholders to help it influence the shape and direction of parking policy in Lewisham.

4.5 Economic Development

The Committee carried out a review of the role of Council services in facilitating the conditions for new businesses, helping small businesses grow and supporting established businesses to build on their successes.

The Committee's work influenced the development of the Council's Business Growth Strategy and brought about a review of Council communications with businesses in the borough. The Committee also identified the requirement for suitable spaces for businesses to grow in the borough – and for work to support the development of 'clusters' of new business. As a result, the Business Growth Strategy incorporates an objective in its action plan to work with partners in order to ensure the development of new clusters of activity in the borough.

4.6 Joint working with the Housing Select Committee

Four of the five strategic sites identified as central to the delivery of the Council's Core Strategy are located in the north of the borough. Given the importance of the delivery of these sites, the Housing and Sustainable Development Select Committees met jointly to assess whether the Council's strategic aims were being met in terms of housing and regeneration in this part of the borough. As a result of the meeting, a series of recommendations were made relating to the Council's submission to the GLA on the Convoys Wharf development; together with recommendations relating to the presentation of London wide affordable housing statistics; and funding models for developments on publically owned land.

5. Planning for the next administration

5.1 A work programme report will be put forward at the first Sustainable Development Select Committee meeting of the 2014-15 administration. The report will take account of the committee's previous work, and will draw on a range of sources for suggestions, as set out in the following sections.

5.2 The Committee has already indicated that there are matters it feels should be considered for further scrutiny, these are:

- plans for the extension of the Bakerloo line, Overground and DLR;
- cycling and road safety;

- heritage and tourism;
- the Local Implementation Plan.

5.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel has tasked the Committee with consideration of:

- plans for Catford town centre, including future options for the Broadway Theatre
- the sections of the annual complaints report that fall within the Committee's terms of reference.

5.4 As with the development of all new work programmes, suggestions will also be incorporated by drawing on:

- matters arising as a result of previous scrutiny;
- issues that the committee is required to consider by virtue of its terms of reference;
- items requiring follow up from committee reviews and recommendations;
- issues suggested by members of the public;
- petitions;
- standard reviews of policy implementation or performance, which is based on a regular schedule;
- items that senior council officers feel are important for the committee to scrutinise;
- suggestions from officers;
- decisions due to be made by Mayor and Cabinet.

5.5 The Lewisham Future Programme

Through the Lewisham Future Programme the Council must save a further £95m from its £285m budget in the four years from 2014-15 to 2017-18. In order to achieve the savings, the Council has embarked on a series of thematic and cross-cutting reviews to fundamentally review the way it delivers services. This will mean that savings will be delivered over longer time periods and will need to be agreed and taken as and when they are identified. Officers have committed to regular interactions with Members in order to facilitate scrutiny of the specific savings proposals arising from the major change programmes. The Select Committees will need to retain capacity in its work programme to consider these as is necessary.

5.6 At the beginning of the new administration the Committee will be asked to agree a provisional work programme for the coming year for submission to Business Panel. Members are asked to review the completed work programme for 2013-14 as well as the core issues covered and put forward any matters arising that should be considered as part of the 2014-15 work programme.

6. Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

7. Legal implications

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.

8. Equalities implications

- 8.1 The Equality Act 2010 brought together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act included a new public sector equality duty, replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 8.2 The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 8.3 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.

Background documents

Lewisham Council's Constitution

Centre for Public Scrutiny: the Good Scrutiny Guide

Response to the persevering local pubs review:

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s19453/Responses%20to%20SDSC%20on%20Pubs.pdf>

Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process

