

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee		
Title	Select Committee work programme	
Contributor	Scrutiny Manager	Item 7
Class	Part 1 (open)	10 March 2015

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Select Committee with an overview of the work programme for 2014-15 and to advise the Committee about the process for agreeing the 2015-16 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 suggested work programmes and coordinates activities between select committees in order to maximise the use of scrutiny resources and avoid duplication.
- 2.2 The meeting on 10 March is the last scheduled meeting of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee in the 2014-15 municipal year. The Committee's completed work programme is attached at appendix B; it lists the issues considered in 2014-15. The Committee is being asked to put forward suggestions for the 2015-16 work programme.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Select Committee is asked to:
- note the completed work programme attached at **appendix B**;
 - review the issues covered in 2014-15 municipal year;
 - take note of the notice of key decisions attached at **appendix C**;
 - consider any matters arising that it may wish to suggest for future scrutiny.

4. Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee 2014-2015

- 4.1 The Committee had six meetings in the 2014-15 year:
- 15 July
 - 10 September
 - 3 November
 - 3 December
 - 3 February
 - 10 March

- 4.2 Along with all other select committees, the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee has devoted considerable attention to the proposals put forward as part of the development and delivery of the Lewisham Future Programme. It is anticipated that all scrutiny committees will be tasked with reviewing further Lewisham Future Programme proposals in the 2015-16 municipal year.
- 4.3 The Committee's completed work programme is attached at **appendix B**.

5. Planning for 2015-16

- 5.1 Eight meetings will be scheduled for 2015-16 municipal year. A work programme report will be put forward at the first Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee meeting of the 2015-16 year for members to review, revise and agree. The report will take account of the Committee's previous work and may incorporate:
- issues 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;
 - suggestions from officers;
 - decisions due to be made by Mayor and Cabinet.

Issues arising from the 2014/15 work programme

- 5.2 The Committee has already agreed that the following items should be put forward for consideration as part of the 2015/16 work programme:
- Implementation of the volunteering strategy
 - Provision for Lewisham's LGBT community
 - Probation service update
 - EqualTeam Lewisham update

- 5.3 A time limited scrutiny working group was set up to review the Lewisham Future Programme proposals for the youth service. The working group recommended that the impact of the reduction in funding from the youth service to voluntary and community sector organisations should be monitored. It was proposed that the Safer Stronger Select Committee reviewed funding to the sector at the end of September 2015.

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee terms of reference

- 5.4 The Committee's terms of reference are included at **appendix A**.
- 5.5 The Committee's areas of responsibility, include, but are not limited to:
- Equalities

- Community safety and anti-social behaviour
- The community and voluntary sector
- Local assemblies
- Libraries

5.6 The Committee also has the responsibility for carrying out the statutory crime and disorder scrutiny function. The constitution sets out that this enables the committee to call before it members of the Safer Lewisham Partnership to explain decisions made or actions taken in the delivery of their crime and disorder functions.

6. Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. There will be financial implications arising from items on the agenda; these will need to be considered, as necessary.

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

Appendix A

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee

(a) To fulfill all overview and scrutiny functions in relation to the discharge by responsible authorities of their crime and disorder function as set out in Sections 19 and 20 Police & Justice Act 2006, as amended from time to time, and all other relevant legislation. This shall include the power:

(i) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by responsible authorities of their crime and disorder function,
(ii) to make reports or recommendations to the local authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of those functions; and
(iii) to make reports and/or recommendations to the local authority with respect to any matter which is a local crime and disorder matter in relation to a member of the authority. A local crime and disorder matter in relation to a member means a matter concerning crime and disorder (including, in particular, forms of crime and disorder involving anti-social behaviour or other behaviour adversely affecting the environment), or the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, which affect all or part of the electoral area for which the member is elected or any person who lives or works there.

(b) make proposals to the Executive to promote equality of opportunity within the borough, including issues of discrimination based on race, ethnic origin, gender, disability, sexuality, age and/or class;

(c) to recommend to the Executive, the Council or an appropriate committee proposals for policy development in relation to equalities issues;

(d) to analyse policy options as necessary to inform the proposals to be made to the Executive or other appropriate committee;

(e) to advise the Executive or other committee on all matters relating to equality of opportunity both in terms of policy, service provision, employment and/or access to public services;

(f) to enhance and develop existing and innovative consultative and/or advisory work for equality of opportunity and to consider issues of inequality and discrimination across the borough;

(g) to consider and recommend to the Executive, ways in which participation by disadvantaged and under-represented sections of the community might be more effectively involved in the democratic processes of local government;

(h) to pilot methods of consultation and involvement and to report back to the Executive or appropriate committee on their effectiveness with recommendation if appropriate;

(i) to establish links with and liaise with external organisations in the borough which are concerned with the promotion of equality of opportunity.

(j) Overview & Scrutiny functions (excluding call-in) in relation to library provision.