

Housing Select Committee		
Title	Select Committee work programme	
Contributor	Scrutiny Manager	Item 8
Class	Part 1 (open)	11 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 11 March 2015 is the last scheduled meeting of the Housing Select Committee in the 2014-15 municipal year. This report provides a list of the issues considered in 2014-15 (the completed work programme) and asks the Committee 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. Housing Select Committee 2014-2015

- 4.1 The Housing Select Committee had seven meetings in the 2014-15 year:
- 22 July 2014
 - 2 Sep 2014
 - 1 Oct 2014
 - 11 Nov 2014
 - 17 Dec 2014
 - 28 Jan 2015
 - 11 Mar 2015

4.2 Along with all other select committees, the Housing 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 overview and 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 Housing 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 indicated that there are matters it feels should be considered for further scrutiny, these are:

- Private Rented Sector Licensing
- New Homes Better Places
- Self-build
- Homelessness
- Lewisham Housing Strategy (2015-20) – Update
- Temporary Accommodation Pressures – Policy Options Update

Housing Select Committee terms of reference

5.3 The Committee's terms of reference are included at **Appendix A**.

5.4 The Council's constitution sets out the Committee's powers. The Committee has a responsibility for scrutinising the Council's strategic housing functions as well as the work of Lewisham Homes and the Brockley Private Finance Initiative (PFI). The strategic housing division is responsible for delivering housing objectives based on the borough's sustainable communities strategy and delivered through the borough's housing strategy, which is currently being renewed for 2015-2020.

5.6 The Council is responsible for a stock of approximately 18,000 homes. These are managed by the Council's Arm's Length Management Organisation, Lewisham Homes and the Brockley Private Finance Initiative. In previous years, the Committee has scrutinised the Lewisham Homes and Brockley PFI annual reports and business plans. Members of the Committee have also resolved to receive six monthly updates from these organisations. The Committee's terms of reference also give it the remit to establish links with social housing providers in the borough.

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

Housing Select Committee terms of reference

To fulfil all overview and scrutiny functions in relation to the discharge by the authority of its housing functions. This shall include the power to:-

- (a) review and scrutinise decisions made or other action taken in connection with the discharge of the Council of its housing function
- (b) make reports or recommendations to the authority and/or Mayor and Cabinet with respect to the discharge of these functions
- (c) make recommendations to the authority and/or Mayor and Cabinet proposals for housing policy
- (d) to review initiatives put in place by the Council with a view to achieving the Decent Homes standard, making recommendations and/or report thereon to the Council and/or Mayor and Cabinet
- (e) To establish links with housing providers in the borough which are concerned with the provision of social housing