

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee		
Title	Select Committee work programme 2015-16	
Contributor	Scrutiny Manager	Item 4
Class	Part 1 (open)	20 April 2015

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To ask Members to discuss and agree an annual work programme for the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee.

2. Summary

- 2.1 This report:

1. Informs Members of the meeting dates for this municipal year.
2. Provides the context for setting the Committee's work programme.
3. Invites Members to decide on the Committee's priorities for the 2015-16 municipal year.
4. Informs Members of the process for Business Panel approval of the work programme.
5. Outlines how the work programme can be monitored, managed and developed.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Select Committee is asked to:

- Note the meeting dates and terms of reference for the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee.
- Consider the provisional work programme at appendix B.
- Consider adding further items to the work programme, taking into consideration the criteria for selecting topics; information about local assembly priorities and items already added to the provisional work programme.
- Note the key decision plan, attached at appendix F, and consider any key decisions for further scrutiny.
- Agree a work programme for the municipal year 2015-16.
- Review how the work programme can be developed, managed and monitored over the coming year.

4. Meeting dates

- 4.1 The following Committee meeting dates for the next municipal year were agreed at the Council AGM on 26 March 2015:

- 20 April 2015
- 14 May 2015
- 1 July 2015
- 16 September 2015

- 21 October 2015
- 30 November 2015
- 19 January 2016
- 9 March 2016

5. Context

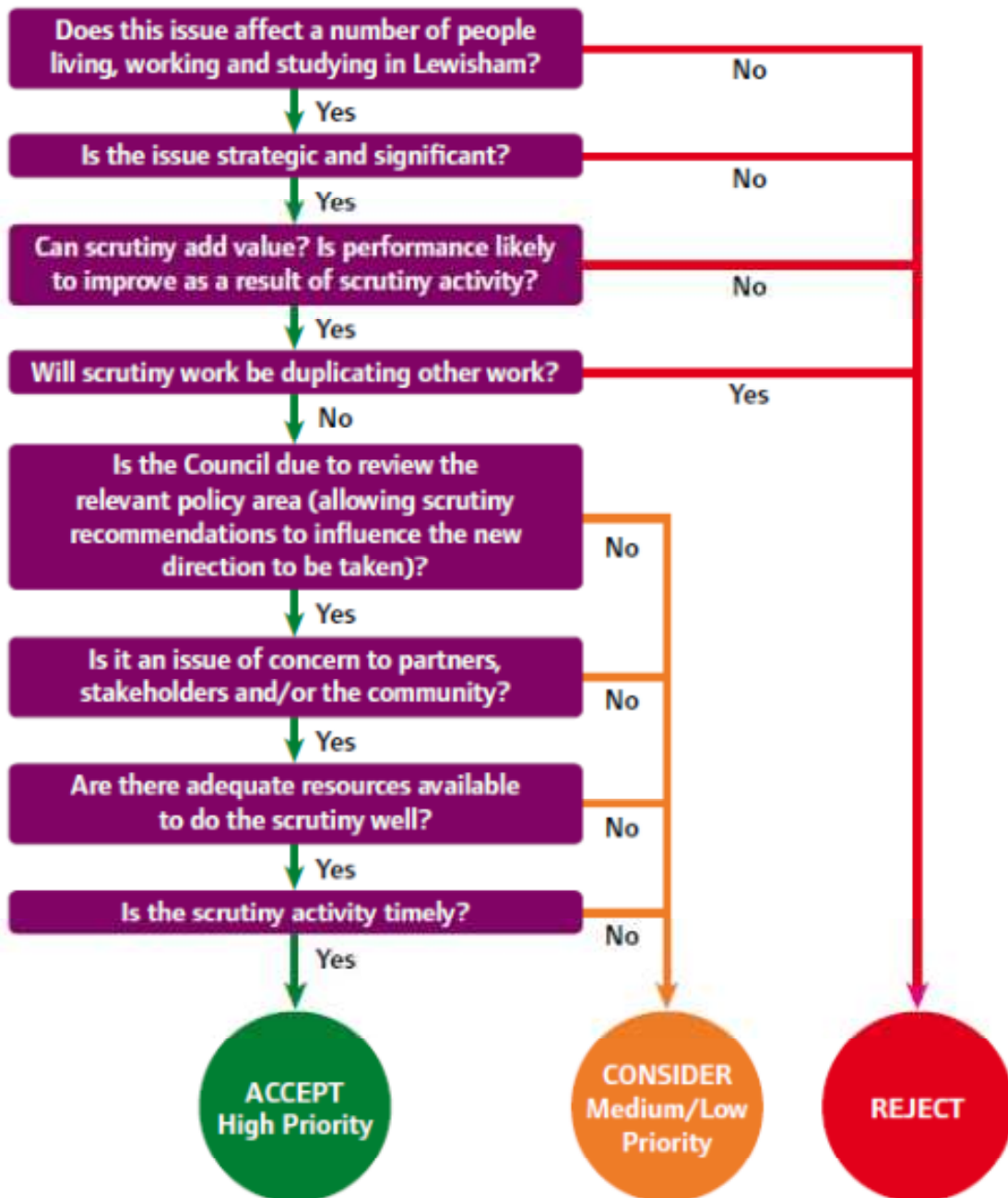
- 5.1 The Committee has a responsibility for scrutinising Lewisham's approach to improving equality of opportunity for all citizens. It also examines work to improve community safety and tackle anti-social behaviour. The Committee's full terms of reference are set out in appendix A.
- 5.2 The Committee regularly scrutinises the work of Lewisham's Community Services directorate, which includes teams responsible for Community Education Lewisham, the Libraries and Information Service, Broadway Theatre, events team; the grants programme, Local Assemblies and arts. The Committee is also responsible for scrutinising the delivery of the Safer Lewisham Strategy.

6. Deciding on items for the work programme

- 6.1 When deciding on items to include in the work programme, the Committee should have regard to:
- items the Committee is required to consider by virtue of its terms of reference;
 - the criteria for selecting and prioritising topics;
 - the capacity for adding items;
 - the context for setting the work programme and advice from officers;
 - suggestions already put forward by Members.

6.2 The following flow chart, based on the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) advice for prioritising topics is designed to help Members decide which items should be added to the work programme:

Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process



7. Different types of scrutiny

7.1 It is important to agree how each work programme item will be scrutinised. Some items may only require an information report to be presented to the Committee and others will require performance monitoring data or analysis to be presented. Typically, the majority of items take the form of single meeting items, where members:

- (a) agree what information and analysis they wish to receive in order to achieve their desired outcomes;
- (b) receive a report presenting that information and analysis;
- (c) ask questions of the presenting officer or guest;
- (d) agree, following discussion of the report, whether the Committee will make recommendations or receive further information or analysis before summarising its views.

7.2 For each item, the Committee should consider what type of scrutiny is required and whether the item is high or medium/low priority (using the prioritisation process). Allocating priority to work programme items will enable the Committee to decide which low and medium priority items it should remove from its work programme, when it decides to add high priority issues in the course of the year.

In-depth review

7.3 Some items might be suitable for an in-depth review, where the item is scrutinised over a series of meetings. Normally this takes four meetings to complete:

- Meeting 1: Scoping paper (planning the review)
- Meetings 2 & 3: Evidence sessions
- Meeting 4: Agreeing a report and recommendations

7.4 If the Committee wants to designate one of its work programme items as an in-depth review, this should be done at the first meeting of the municipal year to allow sufficient time to carry out the review. A scoping paper for the review will then be prepared for the next meeting.

8. Provisional 2015-16 work programme

8.1 The Scrutiny Manager has drafted a provisional work programme for the Committee to consider, which is attached at appendix B. This includes:

- suggestions from the Committee in the previous year;
- suggestions from officers;
- 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;
- standard reviews of policy implementation or performance, which is based on a regular schedule;

8.2 The Committee should also give consideration to:

- issues of importance to Local Assemblies
- decisions due to be made by Mayor and Cabinet (appendix F).

Suggestions from the Committee

8.3 The Committee was advised that, during the consideration of bids for grant funding, it would not be possible to invite organisations bidding for funding to present to the Committee. Because of this, two items from the 2014-15 work programme were moved to the provisional 2015-16 programme:

- Implementation of the volunteering strategy
- Provision for Lewisham's LGBT community

8.4 These suggestions have been incorporated into the draft work programme at appendix B.

Suggestions from officers

8.5 The following are additional suggestions from officers:

- The Council's employment profile
- Voluntary sector accommodation
- The development of the new comprehensive equalities scheme

8.6 The medium term financial strategy reported to Mayor and Cabinet in July 2014 estimated that £85m of savings were still required for the period 2015/16 to 2017/8. In order to achieve 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 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 Committee will need to retain capacity in its work programme to consider these as is necessary.

Issues arising as a result of previous scrutiny

8.7 At the end of 2014, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee established a time limited working group to review savings proposals for Public Health. One of the Group's recommendations was applicable to the Committee:

- The impact of the reduction in funding on VCS organisations needs to be monitored and it is suggested that the Safer Stronger Select Committee reviews this at the end of September 2015.

8.8 This suggestion has been incorporated into the draft work programme at appendix B.

Issues that the Committee is required to consider by virtue of its terms of reference

8.9 As single item has been added to the provisional work programme under this heading:

- Implementation of the Safer Lewisham Partnership Plan

8.10 This has been incorporated into the draft work programme at appendix B.

Items requiring follow up from Committee reviews and recommendations

8.11 During the Violence Against Women and Girls: awareness raising and prevention review, the Committee indicated that it intended to carry out further scrutiny into the issue of Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum (PSHE) in schools. Members indicated a specific interest in understanding the competing priorities facing schools in deciding on allocation of time and resources to different community safety and health initiatives.

Standard reviews of policy implementation or performance, which is based on a regular schedule

8.12 In previous years, Members of the Committee have agreed to consider the following items on a regular cycle:

- Libraries and information service annual update
- Comprehensive equalities scheme annual update
- Main grants programme
- Probation service updates

Decisions due to be made by Mayor and Cabinet

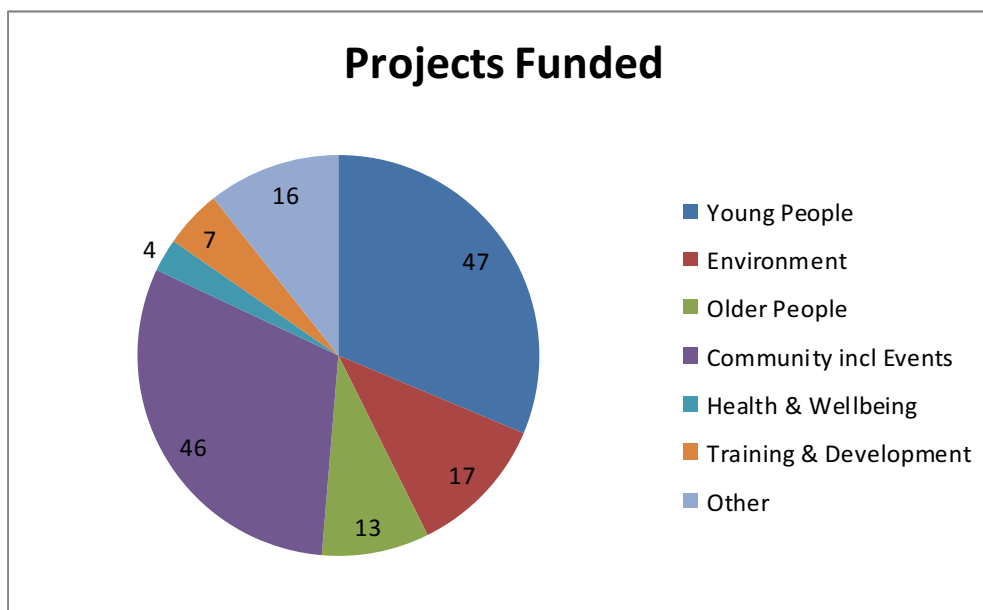
8.13 Members are asked to review the most recent notice of key decisions (at appendix F) and suggest any additional items for further scrutiny.

Consideration of issues of importance to Local Assemblies

8.14 A list of assembly priorities is included at appendix D. Members are asked to consider whether there are issues of importance arising from their interactions with their ward assembly that should be considered for further scrutiny. Assembly priorities include a number of issues that may be of importance to the Committee, specifically:

- Almost all of the ward assemblies have community cohesion, events or community activities as priorities;
- More than half of the assemblies have crime or anti-social behaviour as a priority issue of concern.

8.15 At its meeting on 3 February 2015, the Committee scrutinised an annual update from officers about the assemblies programme. Members received the following breakdown of assembly funding for local projects:



8.16 It is up to the Committee to agree the provisional work programme, outlined at appendix B and decide which additional items should be added.

10. Approving, monitoring and managing the work programme

10.1 In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure rules outlined in the Council's constitution, each select committee is required to submit their annual work programme to the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel. The Business Panel will meet on 28 April 2015 to consider provisional work programmes and agree a co-ordinated Overview and Scrutiny work programme, which avoids duplication of effort and which facilitates the effective conduct of business.

10.2 The work programme will be reviewed at each meeting of the Committee. This allows urgent items to be added and items which are no longer a priority to be removed. Each additional item added should first be considered against the criteria outlined in section 6.2. If the Committee agrees to add additional items because they are high priority, it must then consider which medium/low priority items should be removed in order to create sufficient capacity. The Committee has eight scheduled meetings this municipal year and its work programme needs to be achievable in terms of the amount of meeting time available.

10.3 At each meeting of the Committee, there will be an item on the work programme presented by the Scrutiny Manager. When discussing this item, the Committee will be asked to consider the items programmed for the next meeting. Members will be asked to outline what information and analysis they would like in the report for each item, based on the outcomes they would like to achieve, so that officers are clear on what they need to provide.

Length of meetings

10.4 Provision is made for Committee meetings to last for two and a half hours. If the items scheduled for the meeting are not completed within this time the Committee may decide suspend standing orders. The Council's constitution also provides the option for meetings to be adjourned by the Chair until a later date (with limitations).

The suspension of standing orders and any decision to adjourn a meeting are matters for Members of the Committee and the Chair.

- 10.5 The length of each item at Committee meetings will vary based on a number of factors – including the complexity of the subject under scrutiny; the number of issues identified by Members and the range of questions put to officers/guests.

The number of items scheduled for each meeting

- 10.6 The terms of reference of the Committee are broad and there are many issues the Committee could scrutinise. The prioritisation process set out above (at paragraph 6.2) is designed to help the Committee decide whether it should add items to its work programme.

- 10.7 Where the committee identifies issues of interest that are low priority because:

- they are not due to be reviewed by the Council;
- there are inadequate resources available to carry out the scrutiny effectively;
- the issue has recently been reviewed by others;

Members may wish to make a request to receive a briefing – or task the relevant scrutiny manager to identify sources of further information for circulation to the Committee in order to provide context for future discussions.

- 10.8 It is for Members of the Committee to decide how many items should be scheduled for the meeting. However, giving consideration to the time available and the length of previous meetings of the Committee, Members may wish to schedule three items for each meeting, leaving space available in the programme for responses to consultations, savings proposals and other urgent business.

11. Financial implications

There may be financial implications arising from some of the items that will be included in the work programme (especially reviews) and these will need to be considered when preparing those items/scoping those reviews.

12. 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.

13. Equalities implications

- 13.1 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.

- 13.2 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.

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

14. Crime and disorder implications

There may be crime and disorder implications arising from some of the items that will be included in the work programme (especially reviews) and these will need to be considered when preparing those items/scoping those reviews.

Background documents

Lewisham Council's Constitution
Centre for Public Scrutiny: The Good Scrutiny Guide

Appendices

Appendix A – Committee's terms of reference
Appendix B – Provisional work programme
Appendix C – CfPS criteria for selecting scrutiny topics
Appendix D – Local assembly priorities
Appendix E – How to carry out reviews
Appendix F – Key decision plan (April – July 2015)

Appendix A

The following roles are common to all select committees:

(a) General functions

To review and scrutinise decisions made and actions taken in relation to executive and non-executive functions

To make reports and recommendations to the Council or the executive, arising out of such review and scrutiny in relation to any executive or non-executive function

To make reports or recommendations to the Council and/or Executive in relation to matters affecting the area or its residents

The right to require the attendance of members and officers to answer questions includes a right to require a member to attend to answer questions on up and coming decisions

(b) Policy development

To assist the executive in matters of policy development by in depth analysis of strategic policy issues facing the Council for report and/or recommendation to the Executive or Council or committee as appropriate

To conduct research, community and/or other consultation in the analysis of policy options available to the Council

To liaise with other public organisations operating in the borough – both national, regional and local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working in policy development wherever possible

(c) Scrutiny

To scrutinise the decisions made by and the performance of the Executive and other committees and Council officers both in relation to individual decisions made and over time

To scrutinise previous performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives/performance targets and/or particular service areas

To question members of the Executive or appropriate committees and executive directors personally about decisions

To question members of the Executive or appropriate committees and executive directors in relation to previous performance whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over time or in relation to particular initiatives which have been implemented

To scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the borough and to invite them to make reports to and/or address the select committee/Business Panel and local people about their activities and performance

To question and gather evidence from any person outside the Council (with their consent)

To make recommendations to the Executive or appropriate committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process

(d) Community representation

To promote and put into effect closer links between overview and scrutiny members and the local community

To encourage and stimulate an enhanced community representative role for overview and scrutiny members including enhanced methods of consultation with local people

To liaise with the Council's ward assemblies so that the local community might participate in the democratic process and where it considers it appropriate to seek the views of the ward assemblies on matters that affect or are likely to affect the local areas, including accepting items for the agenda of the appropriate select committee from ward assemblies.

To keep the Council's local ward assemblies under review and to make recommendations to the Executive and/or Council as to how participation in the democratic process by local people can be enhanced

To receive petitions, deputations and representations from local people and other stakeholders about areas of concern within their overview and scrutiny remit, to refer them to the Executive, appropriate committee or officer for action, with a recommendation or report if the committee considers that necessary

To consider any referral within their remit referred to it by a member under the Councillor Call for Action, and if they consider it appropriate to scrutinise decisions and/or actions taken in relation to that matter, and/or make recommendations/report to the Executive (for executive matters) or the Council (non-executive matters)

(e) Finance

To exercise overall responsibility for finances made available to it for use in the performance of its overview and scrutiny function.

(f) Work programme

As far as possible to draw up a draft annual work programme in each municipal year for consideration by the overview and scrutiny Business Panel. Once approved by the Business Panel, the relevant select committee will implement the programme during that municipal year. Nothing in this arrangement inhibits the right of every member of a select committee (or the Business Panel) to place an item on the agenda of that select committee (or Business Panel respectively) for discussion.

The Council and the Executive will also be able to request that the overview and scrutiny select committee research and/or report on matters of concern and the select committee will consider whether the work can be carried out as requested. If it can be accommodated, the select committee will perform it. If the committee has reservations about performing the requested work, it will refer the matter to the Business Panel for decision.

The following roles are specific to the 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.

Shaping Our Future: Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020		
	Priority	
1	Ambitious and achieving	SCS 1
2	Safer	SCS 2
3	Empowered and responsible	SCS 3
4	Clean, green and liveable	SCS 4
5	Healthy, active and enjoyable	SCS 5
6	Dynamic and prosperous	SCS 6

Corporate Priorities		
	Priority	
1	Community Leadership	CP 1
2	Young people's achievement and involvement	CP 2
3	Clean, green and liveable	CP 3
4	Safety, security and a visible presence	CP 4
5	Strengthening the local economy	CP 5
6	Decent homes for all	CP 6
7	Protection of children	CP 7
8	Caring for adults and older people	CP 8
9	Active, healthy citizens	CP 9
10	Inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity	CP 10

Appendix C – Criteria for selecting topics

The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) has developed a useful set of questions to help committees prioritise items for scrutiny work programmes:

General questions to be asked at the outset

- Is there a clear objective for scrutinising this topic – what do we hope to achieve?
- Does the topic have a potential impact for one or more section(s) of the population?
- Is the issue strategic and significant?
- Is there evidence to support the need for scrutiny?
- What are the likely benefits to the council and its customers?
- Are you likely to achieve a desired outcome?
- What are the potential risks?
- Are there adequate resources available to carry out the scrutiny well?
- Is the scrutiny activity timely?

Sources of topics

The CfPS also suggest that ideas for topics might derive from three main sources: the public interest; council priorities; and external factors. These are described below.

Public interest

- Issues identified by members through surgeries, casework and other.
- Contact with constituents.
- User dissatisfaction with service (e.g. complaints).
- Market surveys/citizens panels.
- Issues covered in media

Internal council priority

- Council corporate priority area.
- High level of budgetary commitment to the service/policy area (as percentage of total expenditure).
- Pattern of budgetary overspend.
- Poorly performing service (evidence from performance indicators/ benchmarking).

External Factors

- Priority area for central government.
- New government guidance or legislation.
- Issues raised by External Audit Management Letters/External Audit reports.
- Key reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on key issue.

Criteria to reject items

Finally, the CfPS suggest some criteria for rejecting items:

- issues being examined elsewhere - e.g. by the Cabinet, working group, officer group, external body;
- issues dealt with less than two years ago;
- new legislation or guidance expected within the next year;

- no scope for scrutiny to add value/ make a difference;
- the objective cannot be achieved in the specified timescale.

Appendix D – Assembly priorities

Bellingham

- Children and young people.
- Older people's issues
- Community events and festivals
- The promotion and development of Bellingham as a community

Blackheath

- Environment and Community.
- Provision for Older people, Young People and Children
- Parking, Streets and Waste.
- Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Brockley

- Creating a high-quality living environment – improving our local living environment and making Brockley a safer, cleaner and greener place to live, work and learn
- Connecting communities – bringing Brockley residents together and fostering a sense of community spirit, mutual understanding and respect, through community projects, events and activities

Catford South

- Streetscape and environment (litter, dog fouling, fly tipping, street furniture).
- Developing local opportunities for children (aged 16 and under) and young people (aged 17–25)
- Increase opportunities for older people
- Improvements to shopping hubs
- Community cohesion

Crofton Park

- Streetscape (litter, dog fouling, fly tipping, street furniture).
- Roads and pavement maintenance.
- Traffic and parking issues.
- Youth provision.
- Community cohesion.

Downham

- Crime and ASB
- Youth Provision
- The Environment
- Provision for the Elderly
- Adult Education

Evelyn

- Young people and children.
- Provision for older people.
- Community support on anti-social behaviour, crime and drug issues.
- Housing issues/developments.
- Community capacity building.

Forest Hill

- youth engagement and provision
- making Forest Hill more attractive
- community events and publicity

Grove Park

- Traffic congestion.
- Community communication.
- Neighbourhood security.
- Cleaner and better environment.
- More activities for the young and elderly

Ladywell

- Environment and landscape.
- Antisocial behaviour and crime.
- Local shops.
- Lack of youth and community facilities.
- Traffic.

Lee Green

- Safe healthy living – improving health services, crime reduction, improved environment, provision of outdoor spaces / exercise spaces, promote measures to reduce air pollution / promoting cleaner air.
- Roads and streets – road safety and traffic calming measures, road maintenance, cleaner streets, tree

planting, rubbish collection, improved road use, provision of cycling tracks, addressing parking and CPZ issues.

- Leisure and amenities – improved parks and open spaces, more meeting spaces / community centres, provision of cycling tracks, improved shops, Leegate, provision of more local events.
- Services and infrastructure – better social housing, provision of jobs locally, more services for the elderly and young people, increased use and access to local use for recreational activities, more school spaces.

Lewisham Central

- Improving health and well-being.
- Cleaner, better environment.
- Better access to activities and facilities for young people.
- Better access to training and employment for all inhabitants of the ward.
- Promoting and improving community cohesion.

New Cross

- Unemployment.
- Child poverty and young people.
- Community facilities.
- Environment.
- Community cohesion and engagement.
- Crime and antisocial behaviour.

Perry Vale

- The environment.
- Roads and traffic.
- Activities for younger people.
- Antisocial behaviour and crime.
- Activities for the whole community.

Rushey Green

- activities for children, young people or older people
- community cohesion (including the Rushey Green Festival)
- culture and the arts
- development of a Rushey Green Community Hub
- local streetscape, environment and ecology

Sydenham

- Bringing the community together – intergenerational and intercultural activities.
- Health, wellbeing and community safety – increasing wellbeing including supporting people who cannot get out as much.
- Vibrant high street.
- Clean and green – helping to keep Sydenham streets clean and appealing.
- Transport improvements

Telegraph Hill

- Safety, crime and antisocial behaviour.
- Youth activities and support projects.
- Traffic calming and transport.
- Community activities.
- Cleaning up dirty streets.

Whitefoot

- Crime and ASB
- Lack of Community Facilities
- Activities for Children and Young people
- Roads and Traffic
- Lack of Community Spirit

How to carry out an in-depth review

