

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee			
Title	Select Committee work programme		
Contributor	Scrutiny Manager	Item	7
Class	Part 1 (open)	16 September 2015	

## 1. Purpose

To advise Members of the proposed work programme for the municipal year 2015/16, and to decide on the agenda items for the next meeting.

## 2. Summary

2.1 At the beginning of the new administration, 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 28 April 2015 and agreed a co-ordinated overview and scrutiny work programme. However, the work programme 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 Committee is asked to:

- note the work 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 about what they need to provide;
- review all forthcoming key decisions, attached at **Appendix C**, and consider any items for further scrutiny;
- agree the timetable for the poverty review, as lifted from the scoping paper attached at **Appendix D**:

### **First evidence-taking session** (21 October 2015)

- Update on the Lewisham position from the index of multiple deprivation
- Key trends and issues

### **Second evidence-taking session** (30 November 2015)

- An update from officers on the developing context of welfare reform
- Information from officers about the Councils corporate approach to reducing inequality
- Information from officers on the process of equalities impact assessment in the budget process

### **Third evidence-taking session (19 January 2016)**

- New/innovative approaches to reducing deprivation in Lewisham
- Innovation and approaches taken by other Councils

### **Recommendations and final report (09 March 2016)**

- The Committee will consider a final report presenting all the evidence taken and agree recommendations for submission to Mayor and Cabinet

## **4. The work programme**

4.1 The work programme for 2015/16 was agreed at the Committee's meeting on 20 April 2015.

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 meeting on 21 October 2015:

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Review type</b>	<b>Link to Corporate Priority</b>	<b>Priority</b>
<b>Voluntary Sector Accommodation</b>	Policy development	Community leadership and empowerment	High
<b>Development of the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme</b>	Policy development	Inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity	Medium
<b>Poverty review evidence session</b>	In-depth review	Community leadership; inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity	High

5.2 The Committee is asked to specify the information and analysis it would like to see in the reports for these items, based on the outcomes the Committee would like to achieve, so that officers are clear about what they need to provide for the next meeting.

## **6. Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from 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.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 21 October.

### **Background Documents**

Lewisham Council's Constitution

Centre for Public Scrutiny: the Good Scrutiny Guide

## Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process

