

Public Accounts Select Committee		
Title	Select Committee work programme	
Contributor	Scrutiny Manager	Item 10
Class	Part 1 (open)	21 March 2018

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 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 21 March is the last scheduled meeting of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee in the 2017-18 municipal year, as well as the last meeting of the 2014-18 Council administration. An end of administration report has been prepared (attached to this report). It provides a brief overview of the Committee's work in the 2014-18 administration and as such, it provides the background for the development of the 2018-19 Committee work programme.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. The Select Committee is asked to:
- note the completed work programme attached at **appendix B**;
 - consider the contents of the end of administration report;
 - put forward ideas and suggestions for Members of the Committee to consider for the development of their work programme in 2018-19 - and into the next administration.

4. Planning for the next administration

- 4.1. A work programme report will be put forward at the first Public Accounts Select Committee of 2018-19. The report will take account of the committee's previous work, and will draw on a range of sources for ideas and suggestions.
- 4.2. The Committee has already indicated that there are matters it feels should be considered for further scrutiny, these include:
- budget pressures in children's and adults' social care;
 - communicating the Council's budget position;

- 4.3. 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;
 - any issues suggested by members of the public;
 - standard reviews of policy implementation or performance, which are based on a regular schedule;
 - suggestions from officers;
 - decisions due to be made by Mayor and Cabinet.

5. The Lewisham Future Programme

- 5.1. As a result of government austerity, it is anticipated that from 2010-2020 the Council will have delivered savings totalling nearly £200m. As set out in the end of administration report, the Committee has considered a number of reports about the Council's finances and financial management over the years of the 2014-18 administration. It has also been closely involved in the scrutiny of each year of the Lewisham Future Programme.
- 5.2. All select committees have a role to play in ensuring that the Council is making effective use of its resources, but over and above this the Public Accounts Select Committee has a role in ensuring the highest levels of proper financial management. In the new administration, the Committee will need to allocate sufficient time to ensure that it is scrutinising the Lewisham Future Programme proposals.
- 5.3. As reported at previous meetings of the Committee, there are currently a number of unachieved savings proposals – combined with overspends in a number of Council budgets. In the 2016-17 financial year, the Council was required to use reserves to balance its budget and it is anticipated that this will also be the case for 2017-18, placing additional pressure on reserves and reducing the funding that is available for service transformation and the implementation of new working practices across the Council.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. There are no financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. However, there will be implications arising from the work carried out by the Committee and these will need to be considered at the appropriate time.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1. 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 (the Act) introduced a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 8.2. In summary, 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. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, or to promote equality of opportunity or foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve the goals listed above.
- 8.4. There are no direct equalities implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. However, there may be equalities implications arising from items on the work programme and all activities undertaken by the Committee will need to give these due consideration.

Background Documents

Lewisham Council's Constitution

Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process

