

<b>Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel</b>		
Title	Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee Work Programmes 2019 – 20	
Contributor	Overview and Scrutiny Manager	Item 6
Class	Part 1	7 May 2019

**Lateness:** This report was not available for the original dispatch because the Children and Young People; Safer Stronger Communities; and Sustainable Development Select Committees did not meet until the evening of 30 April to agree their work programmes; and the Housing Select Committee did not meet until the evening of 1 May to agree its work programme.

**Urgency:** The report is urgent and cannot wait until the next meeting of the Business Panel because some Select Committees will have had their second meetings by that point and the Business Panel is required to consider the proposed work programmes of each of the select committees at the earliest opportunity and before they are implemented, to ensure a co-ordinated overview and scrutiny work programme which avoids duplication of effort and facilitates the effective conduct of business.

## **1. Recommendation**

1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel is asked to:

- Review and approve the proposed contents of the work programmes of the Overview and Scrutiny Select Committees, apart from the Public Accounts Select Committee (attached at appendix A) as discussed and agreed by members.

## **2. Purpose**

2.1 In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules outlined in Part IV E of the Council's Constitution, the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel is required to:

- Consider the proposed work programmes of each of the Select Committees and devise a co-ordinated overview and scrutiny work programme which avoids duplication of effort and facilitates the effective conduct of business.

2.2 The Business Panel may amend the work programme of any of the Select Committees to secure the most effective use of committee time and Council resources and to prevent overlaps. However, the Business Panel will not normally amend work programme unless it is necessary to ensure the effective conduct of Council business. Once the Business Panel has approved the select committee work programme, the Select Committee will implement it.

2.3 Due to the by-elections on 2 May 2019, the Public Accounts Select Committee meeting scheduled for the day of the election, has been moved to 9 May 2019. The Public Accounts Select Committee meeting will therefore take place after this

Business Panel meeting. The Public Accounts Select Committee work programme will therefore be considered by Business Panel, separately, on 21 May. Its second meeting will take place on 13 June so Business Panel will be able to approve the work programme before it begins to be implemented.

- 2.4 It is Business Panel's role to consider all the Select Committee work programmes and agree a coordinated scrutiny programme, so officers will ensure that when the Public Accounts Select Committee work programme is considered on 21 May, any potential overlaps with items on the other five Select Committee work programmes are highlighted. However, no overlaps are anticipated as the work of the Public Accounts Select Committee is very focussed on financial and budgetary matters and overlaps with the remits of other select committees are rare.

### **3. Policy Context**

- 3.1 The Council's recently adopted Corporate Strategy sets out the Council's priorities, namely:

1. Open Lewisham
2. Tackling the housing crisis
3. Giving children and young people the best start in life
4. Building an inclusive local economy
5. Delivering and defending: Health, Social Care and Support
6. Making Lewisham greener
7. Building safer communities

- 3.2 The Select Committees devise annual work programmes which cover areas of business that fall within, and contribute towards achieving, all corporate priorities. The implementation of the attached work programmes will therefore have implications for all policy areas.

- 3.3 The Select Committees have tried to make sure that their work programmes reflect the diversity of Lewisham's communities and that the views of residents are fairly represented in scrutiny processes. Any recommendations arising from scrutiny work carried out this year, will support the Council's corporate strategy and reflect the needs of local residents.

### **4. Select Committee Work Programme Setting 2018-19**

- 4.1 Five Select Committees have met to consider and agree their work programmes for the municipal year 2019-2020 (see appendix A). In developing their work programmes members have considered:

- standing items, e.g. performance reviews, inspection reports, annual budget scrutiny
- topics recommended for scrutiny by select committees at the end of the 2018-19 municipal year
- topics recommended for scrutiny by senior officers based on recent and future developments

- suggestions from individual members
- issues of importance to Local Assemblies
- decisions due to be made by Mayor and Cabinet
- issues suggested by members of the public.

4.2 In choosing topics to be added to their work programme, and how they may wish to scrutinise them, members have also taken account of the Lewisham scrutiny prioritisation process, which supports members in identifying priorities and managing workloads (Appendix B).

4.3 The committees have also taken into consideration the recommendations arising from the Council's *Local Democracy Review* on how scrutiny can be even more effective, participative and open.

4.4 The draft work programmes attached at appendix A reflect the discussions held at the first round of select committee meetings and present a broad and varied programme of scrutiny over the next twelve months, focussed on key policy issues, for Business Panel to consider.

4.5 The following in-depth reviews have been put forward by the Select Committees:

- **Equalities - Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee**

*This will link into the timeframe for consultation on the new Corporate Equalities Scheme and consider (a) how equalities considerations are embedded across the Council including organisations funded by the Council; and (b) how Equalities Impact Assessments are carried out in Lewisham and good practice.*

- **Resident Engagement in Housing Developments – Housing Select Committee**

*This will consider how the council engages with communities around regeneration and housing development; how this affects relationships between the council and residents, particularly those from often excluded groups; what the council can learn from how other boroughs engage; and the role of partners, Tenants and Residents Associations and councillors in community engagement.*

- **Parks Management – Sustainable Development Select Committee**

*This will take into account the proposed income generation proposals made in the last round of cuts and will also consider the future maintenance and ownership of open spaces as well as the new 'greening fund'.*

4.6 Whilst the **Healthier Communities Select Committee** has not agreed an in-depth review at this stage, it will be carrying out in-depth work on adult social care which will include a visit to Wigan to hear more about the Wigan Deal for Adult Social Care. Similarly, the **Children and Young People Select Committee**, whilst not carrying out an in-depth review per se, will have a one off meeting on the impact of families being placed in temporary accommodation a long distance away from their existing

social networks and schools. It will also be carrying out specific work in relation to the Early Help Review.

- 4.7 In order to increase public participation in scrutiny, the committees may ask members of the public to contribute to in-depth reviews or other in-depth scrutiny work by submitting evidence via the council website: [Open Overview and Scrutiny Investigations](#).

## **5. Scrutiny of the Budget and Savings Proposals**

- 5.1 The work programmes attached in the appendix to this report may need to be modified in order to accommodate the scrutiny of savings proposals brought forward for member consideration. It remains officers' intention to bring forward savings for scrutiny and decision as and when they are identified, although it is recognised that the annual budget cycle will mean the majority of savings for the following financial year will be developed over the summer for scrutiny and decision in the autumn. Time to scrutinise savings proposals has therefore provisionally been set aside in the October/November round of meetings, on the proviso that this may need to be revisited as the year progresses. The select committees will therefore need to retain capacity in their work programmes to consider savings proposals as necessary.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 The work programmes will be managed within existing budgets. However, formal recommendations to the Mayor arising out of any specific work items within the respective work programmes will be evaluated in the usual way through the process of formal reports.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel is required to consider and co-ordinate an overview and scrutiny work programme which avoids duplication and facilitates the effective conduct of business across the scrutiny select committees. Once the Business Panel has approved the overall work programme, the select committees will implement it.

## **8. Equalities implications**

- 8.1 There may be equalities implications arising from items listed in the select committee work programmes and all activities undertaken by the select committees in discharging these items will need to give due consideration to this.
- 8.2 The delivery of the Council's equalities objectives is to be achieved through the delivery of all of the Council's strategies, plans and procedures. As such, all select committees, when planning their work programmes and scrutinising items, should bear in mind the delivery of the Council's equality objectives.
- 8.3 The Select Committees have tried to make sure that their work programmes reflect the diversity of Lewisham's communities and that the views of residents are fairly represented in scrutiny processes. Any recommendations arising from scrutiny work

carried out this year, will support the Council's newly adopted corporate strategy and reflect the needs of local residents.

## **8. Background documents**

- Lewisham Council's Constitution
- Draft minutes of the first meeting of the scrutiny select committees held in April/May 2019

If you have any questions about this report – please contact Charlotte Dale (Overview and Scrutiny Manager) 02083148286

Appendix A Select Committee work programmes

Appendix B Lewisham scrutiny prioritisation process