



Children and Young People Select Committee

Report title: Select Committee work programme report

Date: 4 March 2021

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: Not applicable

Contributors: Emma Aye-Kumi, Scrutiny Manager

Outline and recommendations

To advise members of the completed work programme for 2020/21 and to outline how the committee's work programme for 2021/22 will be set.

The Committee is asked to:

- note the completed work programme attached at **appendix A**
- review the issues covered over the course of 2020/21
- review forthcoming key decisions set out in **appendix B**
- Note the timetable for setting the 2021/22 work programme

Timeline of decision-making

CYP Work Programme 2020/21 – Draft programme agreed by Committee on 21 September 2020

CYP Work Programme 2020/21 – Draft programme agreed by Business Panel on 29 September 2020

CYP Work Programme 2020/21 – Agreed work programme reviewed at committee meetings on 26 November 2020; 21 January 2021; and 4 March 2021.

Summary

- 1.1. Each select committee is required to agree a work programme for submission to the Business Panel at the beginning of the municipal year. As this is the last meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee in 2020/21 members are being asked to put forward suggestions for the 2021/22 work programme. Please note, however, that the 2021/22 work programme will not be formally agreed until the first meeting of 2021/22.

Recommendations

- 1.2. The Committee is asked to:
 - note the completed work programme attached at appendix A
 - review the issues covered over the course of 2020/21
 - note the timetable for setting the 2021/22 work programme
 - start to prioritise and plan for 2021/22
 - review forthcoming key decisions set out in appendix B.

The Work Programme

- 1.3. **Issues covered over the course of 2020/21:** Due to the pandemic and the demand that this has placed on the council, each Select Committee has only met four, instead of five, times this year. In addition, during the latter part of the municipal year, select committees were asked to only consider business critical and/or urgent items. This has had an impact on the volume of work select committees have been able to complete this year. The completed work programme is attached at appendix A.
- 1.4. Key issues covered by the Children and Young People Select Committee this year have included: budget cuts relevant to the remit of the committee; CAMHS; SEND transition from children's to adults' services; Corporate Parenting and Children Looked After; BAME school attainment; Children's Social Care; Early Help; Child Safeguarding; follow up to in-depth review of how living in temporary accommodation affects children and young people.
- 1.5. **Timetable for setting the 2021/22 Work Programme:** Five committee meetings will be scheduled for the 2021/22 municipal year. A draft work programme will be put forward at the first meeting of the municipal year, taking into account key local issues and the Committee's previous work.
- 1.6. At this meeting, Members are asked to review the Committee's work over 2020/21 and consider suggestions/priority themes for 2021/22. At the last meeting held on 21 January, the Committee resolved to recommend Elective Home Education, including unregulated education settings, as an item for scrutiny during the next municipal year.
- 1.7. Forthcoming key decisions are set out in appendix B.
- 1.8. Work programme suggestions should be considered against the Committee's terms of reference (see section 4) and the prioritisation chart set out below, and be achievable in

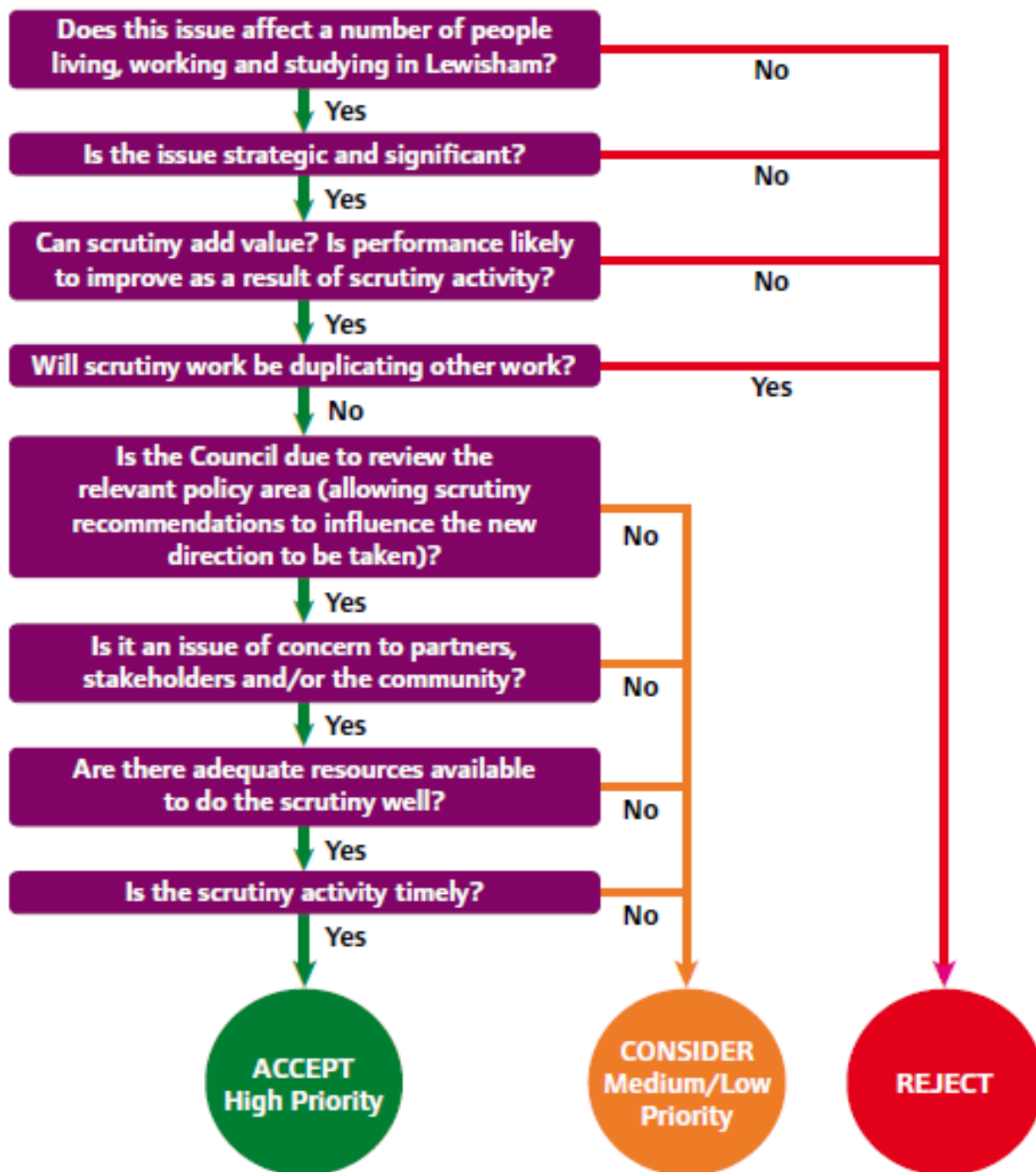
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terms of the meeting time available.

Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process



1.9. The Committee should give consideration to issues of local importance and decisions

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due to be made by Mayor and Cabinet. Items within the work programme should be linked to the priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Strategy for 2018-2022:

Open Lewisham - Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all, where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us.

Tackling the housing crisis - Everyone has a decent home that is secure and affordable.

Giving children and young people the best start in life - Every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education, and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.

Building an inclusive local economy - Everyone can access high-quality job opportunities, with decent pay and security in our thriving and inclusive local economy.

Delivering and defending: health, social care and support - Ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.

Making Lewisham greener - Everyone enjoys our green spaces, and benefits from a healthy environment as we work to protect and improve our local environment.

Building safer communities - Every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.

Children and Young People Select Committee terms of reference

- 1.10. The Council's constitution sets out the Committee's powers as defined by the terms of reference (set out below). The Committee should familiarise itself with the terms of reference and consider its remit when selecting items for scrutiny.

Children & Young People Select Committee

- 1.11. (a) To fulfil all overview and scrutiny functions as they relate to the social care of children and young people up to the age of 19 years including but not limited to the following activities:-

(i) the social services functions of the Council under the Children Act 2004, and all functions of the Council under the National Assistance Act 1948, the Mental Health Act 1983, Children Act 1989, the NHS and Community Care Act 1990, Children Act 2004, Children and Families Act 2014 and all other relevant legislation in force from time to time

(ii) to invite representatives of other service providers to children and young people in the area to give account of their performance and to answer questions.

(b) In so far as they relate to the provision of services for those under the age of 19 years, the exercise of all of the Council's powers under all relevant legislation pertaining to education from time to time in force. Without limiting the generality of this, this shall include, in particular, schools and school related services.

(c) The exercise of the overview and scrutiny powers of the Council in so far as they relate to people under 19 years of age in the provision of opportunities for education, training and learning outside the school environment, including pre-school services.

(d) In so far as they relate to children and young people under 19 years of age, to make comments and recommendations to the Executive on the contents and proposed contents of the plans making up the Council's policy framework.

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(e) In so far as they relate to people under the age of 25 years, to make comments and recommendations on the provision of education, training and learning by those with special educational needs.

(f) Without limiting the remit of the Select Committee, its terms of reference include the following matters:

- Child protection - covering provision for vulnerable children including children in need and children looked after, placements, foster care and adoption
- Early years provision
- Special needs provision
- Schools and related services
- Youth Service
- Youth offending and challenging behaviour
- Transitional services for those leaving care
- Other matters relating to children and young people

(g) To receive and consider referrals from Healthwatch in so far as they relate solely to people under 19 years of age. Otherwise such referrals will be made to the Healthier Communities Select Committee.

(h) Without limiting the remit of the Select Committee, to hold the Executive to account for its performance in relation to the delivery of Council objectives in the provision of services to children and young people.

NB In the event of there being overlap between the terms of reference of this select committee and those of the Healthier Communities Select Committee, the Business Panel shall determine the Select Committee which shall deal with the matter in question. Financial implications

- 1.12. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme will have financial implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items

Legal implications

- 1.13. 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.

Equalities implications

- 1.14. 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.
- 1.15. 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.

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- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 1.16. 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.

Climate change and environmental implications

- 1.17. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme may have climate change implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

Crime and disorder implications

- 1.18. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme may have crime and disorder implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

Health and wellbeing implications

- 1.19. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme may have health and wellbeing implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

Report author and contact

- 1.20. If you have any questions about this report please contact: emma.aye-kumi@lewisham.gov.uk

Appendix A – Completed Work Programme

Appendix B - Forthcoming Key Decisions

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