



Housing Select Committee

Report title: Select Committee work programme report

Date: 9 March 2021

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: Not applicable

Contributors: John Bardens, Scrutiny Manager

Outline and recommendations

To advise members of the completed work programme for 2020/21 and to propose draft priority themes for the committee's work programme for 2021/22.

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**
- consider priority themes for the 2021/22 work programme

Timeline of decision-making

HSC Work Programme 2020/21 – draft agreed on 15 September 2020

HSC Work Programme 2020/21 – agreed by Business Panel 29 September 2020

HSC work programme 2020/21 reviewed at committee meetings on 15 September 2020; 18 November 2020; 28 January 2021; and 9 March 2021.

1. 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 Housing 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.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. 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**
 - consider priority themes for the 2021/22 work programme

3. The Work Programme

- 3.1. **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 attached at appendix A.
- 3.2. Key issues covered by the Housing Select Committee this year have included: budget cuts relevant to the remit of the committee; Lewisham's housing strategy and homelessness strategies; overcrowding; allocations; and Lewisham Homes.
- 3.3. **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.
- 3.4. At this meeting members are asked to review the committee's work over 2020/21 and consider suggestions/priority themes for 2021/22. Forthcoming key decisions are set out in appendix B. 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 terms of the meeting time available.
- 3.5. The Committee should give consideration to issues of local importance and decisions due to be made by Mayor and Cabinet. Items within the work programme should also be linked to the priorities of 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.

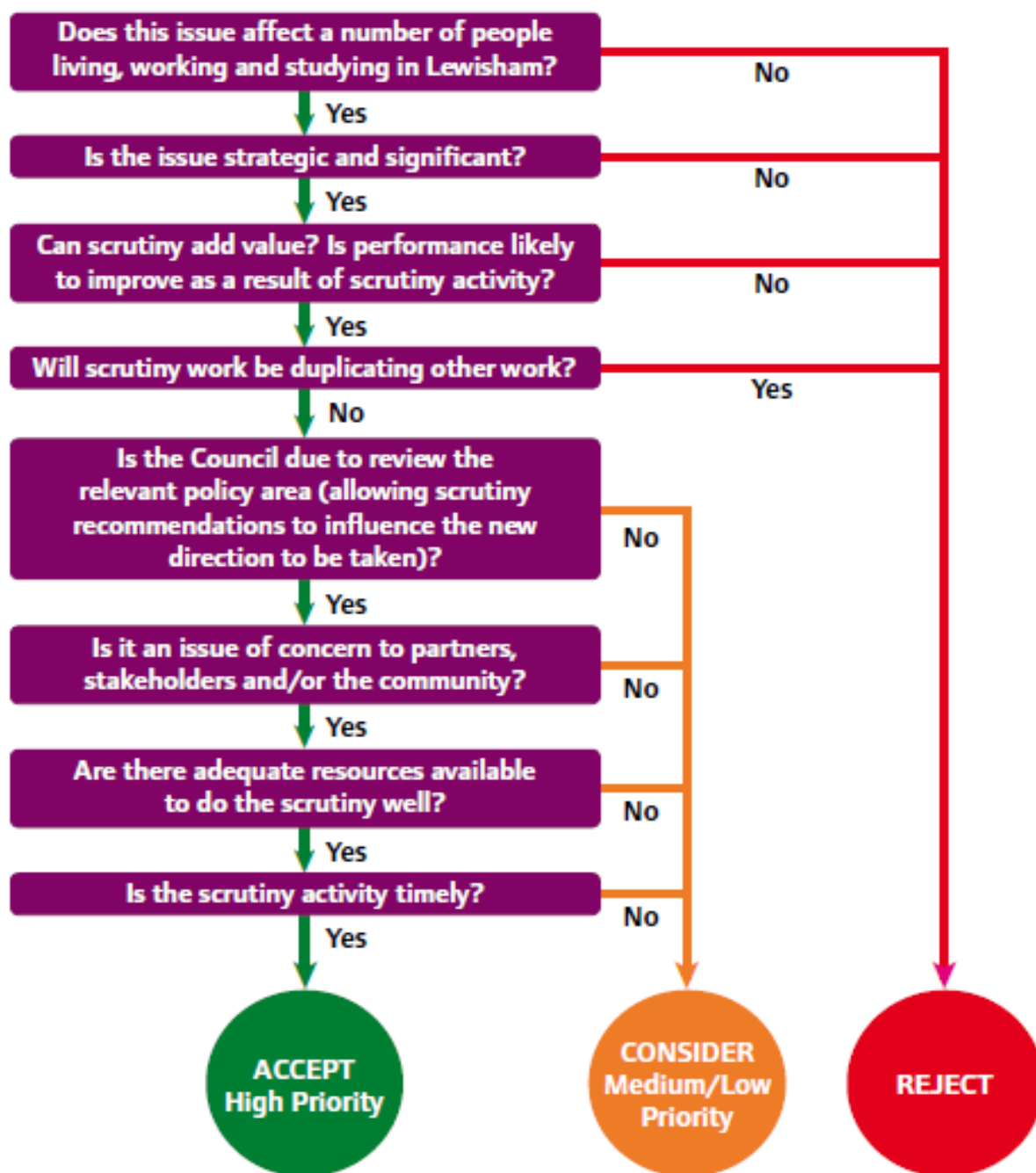
Building safer communities - Every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.

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Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process



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4. Housing Select Committee terms of reference

- 4.1. 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.

Housing Select Committee terms of reference:

- a) To fulfil all overview and scrutiny functions in relation to the discharge by the authority of its housing functions. This shall include the power to:
- b) review and scrutinise decisions made or other action taken in connection with the discharge of the Council of its housing function
- c) make reports or recommendations to the authority and/or Mayor and Cabinet with respect to the discharge of these functions
- d) make recommendations to the authority and/or Mayor and Cabinet proposals for housing policy
- e) to review initiatives put in place by the Council with a view to improving, increasing and enhancing housing in the borough, making recommendations and/or report thereon to the Council and/or Mayor and Cabinet
- f) To establish links with housing providers in the borough which are concerned with the provision of social housing

5. Financial implications

- 5.1. 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

6. Legal implications

- 6.1. 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.

7. Equalities implications

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.2. 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.
- 7.3. 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.

8. Climate change and environmental implications

- 8.1. 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

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programme may have climate change implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

9. Crime and disorder implications

- 9.1. 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.

10. Health and wellbeing implications

- 10.1. 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.

11. Report author and contact

- 11.1. If you have any questions about this report please contact: John Bardens, 020 8314 9976 john.bardens@lewisham.gov.uk.

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