



Healthier Communities Select Committee

Report title: Select Committee Work Programme Report

Date: 9 January 2025

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: Not applicable

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Outline and recommendations

This report gives Committee members an opportunity to review the Committee's work programme and make any modifications required.

The Committee is asked to:

- Review the work programme attached at Appendix B.
- Consider the items for the next meeting and specify the information required.
- Review the forward plan of key decisions at Appendix E to consider whether there are any items for further scrutiny.

Timeline of decision-making

Healthier Communities Select Committee Work Programme 2024/25 – draft agreed on 18.07.24

Healthier Communities Select Committee Work Programme 2024/25 – agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23.07.24

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Committee proposed a draft work programme at the beginning of the municipal year. This was considered alongside the draft work programmes of the other select committees and agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23 July 2024.
- 1.2. The work programme should be reviewed at each meeting to take account of changing priorities.

2. Recommendations

2.1. The Committee is asked to:

- Review the work programme attached at Appendix B.
- Consider the items for the next meeting and specify what evidence is required, including being clear about the information the committee wishes to be included in officer reports.
- Review the forward plan of key decisions at Appendix E to consider whether there are any items for further scrutiny.

3. Work Programming

3.1. When reviewing the work programme, the Committee should consider the following:

The Committee's terms of reference (Appendix A)

3.2. The Committee's areas of responsibility, include, but are not limited to:

- Adult Social Care
- Primary and secondary care
- Mental health
- Adult learning
- Leisure centres

3.3. The Committee has a key role in scrutinising the performance and supporting the development of the council's health and care-related strategies and policies. It also has a role in engaging and reflecting the views of residents in relation to health and care-related matters.

Whether any urgent issues have arisen that require scrutiny

3.4. If there is any urgent issue that is brought to the Committee's attention, it should consider the prioritisation process (Appendix C) and the Effective Scrutiny Guidelines (Appendix D) before deciding on its priority.

Whether a committee meeting is the most effective forum for scrutinising the issue

3.5. When scrutinising an issue of interest, the Committee should consider if there are any alternative methods for receiving information on the issue that would be more appropriate. For example, would a briefing or a written summary be more effective and appropriate for the issue in question?

Whether there is capacity to consider the item

3.6. The Committee should consider which work programme items could be removed or rescheduled to make space for the full consideration of more important issues.

Whether the item links to the priorities set out in the Corporate Strategy

3.7. A new corporate strategy has been developed¹ – which sets out the Council's values, priorities and focus for the next four years (2022-2026). These are categorised under the following headings:

- Cleaner and Greener
- Strong Local Economy
- Quality Housing
- Children and Young People

¹ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/corporate-strategy>

- Safer Communities
 - Open Lewisham
 - Health and Wellbeing
- 3.8. The work of the Healthier Communities Select Committee will relate most closely to the 'Health & Wellbeing' priority, which commits the Council to:
- ensuring that everyone can access food and other essentials through our Lewisham Food Action Plan;
 - mitigating and ultimately ending structural racism and discrimination as a driver of health inequalities;
 - progressing towards a fairer care system and improving conditions for care workers to ensure they feel valued;
 - working with the local NHS to deliver the services Lewisham residents need and creating the Lewisham Health Care & Wellbeing Charter;
 - collaborating with other organisations to deliver places, activities and programmes that our residents need in order to live a physically active lifestyle.
- 3.9. The Committee should consider how its work programme reflects these priorities. The Committee might also consider whether there are suggestions that should be put forward for consideration in the new municipal year.

4. The next meeting

- 4.1. The following items are scheduled for the next meeting. For each item, the Committee should clearly define the information and analysis it wishes to see in officer reports.
- 4.2. The Committee should also consider whether to invite any expert witnesses to provide evidence, and whether site visits or engagement would assist the effective scrutiny of the item.

Agenda item	Review type	Corporate priority
Improving our Mental Health Provision (Early intervention, prevention and the physical estate)	Policy review	Health and Wellbeing-CP5
Learning Disabilities Implementation Plan	Performance monitoring	Health and Wellbeing-CP5

5. Scrutiny between meetings

- 5.1. Below is a list of scrutiny activity, including briefings, information requests, visits and stakeholder engagement, that has taken place outside of the committee meeting. The scrutiny activity below covers the time period between the last committee meeting on the 19th of November 2024 to the committee meeting on the 9th of January 2025.

Activity	Date	Outcome	Corporate Priority
Visit to Care Homes in Lewisham	10 December 2024	A visit to Alexander Care Home and Manley Court Care Home in Lewisham was organised, providing valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities within care home settings.	Health & Wellbeing

Food Justice Action Plan	31 December 2024	An information update on the Food Justice Action Plan was circulated to the Committee members, outlining key developments and progress. This ensured they remained well-informed about ongoing work in this crucial area.	Health & Wellbeing
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6. Financial implications

- 6.1. 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.

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 Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the start of each municipal year.

8. Equalities implications

- 8.1. 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.
- 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. Climate change and environmental implications

- 9.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. However, in February 2019 Lewisham Council declared a Climate Emergency and proposed a target to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030. An action plan to achieve this target was subsequently agreed by Mayor and Cabinet (following pre-decision scrutiny by the Sustainable Development Select Committee)². The plan incorporates all areas of the Council's work. Items on the work programme may well have climate change and environmental implications and reports considered by the Committee should acknowledge this.

² See <https://lewisham.gov.uk/TacklingTheClimateEmergency> for a summary of the Council's work in this area.

10. Crime and disorder implications

- 10.1. 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.

11. Health and wellbeing implications

- 11.1. 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.

12. Report author and contact

If you have any questions about this report please contact the scrutiny manager:

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Appendix A – Healthier Communities Select Committee Terms of Reference

The following roles are common to all select committees:

(a) General functions

- To review and scrutinise decisions made and actions taken in relation to executive and non-executive functions.
- To make reports and recommendations to the Council or the executive, arising out of such review and scrutiny in relation to any executive or non-executive function.
- To make reports or recommendations to the Council and/or Executive in relation to matters affecting the area or its residents.
- The right to require the attendance of members and officers to answer questions includes a right to require a member to attend to answer questions on up and coming decisions.
- To consider matters referred to it in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.

(b) Policy development

- To assist the executive in matters of policy development by in depth analysis of strategic policy issues facing the Council for report and/or recommendation to the Executive or Council or committee as appropriate.
- To conduct research, community and/or other consultation in the analysis of policy options available to the Council.
- To liaise with other public organisations operating in the borough – both national, regional and local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working in policy development wherever possible.

(c) Scrutiny

- To scrutinise the decisions made by and the performance of the Executive and other committees and Council officers both in relation to individual decisions made and over time.
- To scrutinise previous performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives/performance targets and/or particular service areas.
- To question members of the Executive or appropriate committees and executive directors personally about decisions.
- To question members of the Executive or appropriate committees and executive directors in relation to previous performance whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over time or in relation to particular initiatives which have been implemented.
- To scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the borough and to invite them to make reports to and/or address the select committee and local people about their activities and performance.
- To question and gather evidence from any person outside the Council (with their consent where the law does not require them to attend).
- To make recommendations to the Executive or appropriate committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process.

(d) Community representation

- To promote and put into effect closer links between overview and scrutiny members and the local community.
- To encourage and stimulate an enhanced community representative role for overview and scrutiny members including enhanced methods of consultation with local people.
- To liaise with the Council's ward assemblies and/ or Positive Ageing Council so that the local community might participate in the democratic process and where it considers it appropriate to seek the views of the ward assemblies and/ or Positive Ageing Council on matters that affect or are likely to affect the local areas, including accepting items for the agenda of the appropriate select committee from ward assemblies and the Positive Ageing Council.
- To keep the Council's local ward assemblies and Positive Ageing Council under review and

to make recommendations to the Executive and/or Council as to how participation in the democratic process by local people can be enhanced.

- To receive petitions, deputations and representations from local people and other stakeholders about areas of concern within their overview and scrutiny remit, to refer them to the Executive, appropriate committee or officer for action, with a recommendation or report if the committee considers that necessary.
- To consider any referral within their remit referred to it by a member under the Councillor Call for Action, and if they consider it appropriate to scrutinise decisions and/or actions taken in relation to that matter, and/or make recommendations/report to the Executive (for executive matters) or the Council (non-executive matters).

(e) Finance

- To exercise overall responsibility for finances made available to it for use in the performance of its overview and scrutiny function.

(f) Work programme

- As far as possible to draw up a draft annual work programme in each municipal year for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Once approved, the relevant select committee will implement the programme during that municipal year. Nothing in this arrangement inhibits the right of every member of a select committee to place an item on the agenda of that select committee for discussion.
- The Council and the Executive will also be able to request that an overview and scrutiny select committee research and/or report on matters of concern and the select committee will consider whether the work can be carried out as requested. If it can be accommodated, the select committee will perform it. If the committee has reservations about performing the requested work, it will refer the matter to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for decision.

Healthier Communities has specific responsibilities for the following:

- a) To fulfill all of the Overview and Scrutiny functions in relation to the provision of service by and performance of health bodies providing services for local people. These functions shall include all powers in relation to health matters given to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee by any legislation but in particular the NHS Act 2006 as amended, the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Care Act 2014 and regulations made under that legislation, and any other legislation in force from time to time.
- b) To review and scrutinise the decisions and actions of the Health and Wellbeing Board and to make reports and recommendations to the Council and/or Mayor and Cabinet.
- c) To review and scrutinise in accordance with regulations made under Section 244 NHS Act 2006 matters relating to the health service in the area and to make reports and recommendations on such matters in accordance with those regulations
- d) Require the attendance of representatives of relevant health bodies at meetings of the select committee to address it, answer questions and listen to the comments of local people on matters of local concern.
- e) With the exception of matters pertaining to the Council's duty in relation to special educational needs, to fulfill all of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny functions in relation to social services provided for those 19 years old or older including but not limited to services provided under the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, Children Act 2004, National Assistance Act 1948, Mental Health Act 1983, NHS and Community Care Act 1990, NHS Act 2006, Health and Social Care Act 2012 and any other relevant legislation in place from time to time.
- f) To fulfill all of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny functions in relation to the lifelong learning of those 19 years or over (excluding schools and school related services).
- g) To receive referrals from the Healthwatch and consider whether to make any report/recommendation in relation to such referral (unless the referral relates solely to health services for those aged under 19 years of age, in which case the referral from the Healthwatch should be referred to the Children and Young People Select Committee .

h) To review and scrutinise the Council's public health functions.

i) Without limiting the remit of this Select Committee, its terms of reference shall include Overview and Scrutiny functions in relation to:

- people with learning difficulties
- people with physical disabilities
- mental health services
- the provision of health services by those other than the Council
- provision for elderly people
- the use of Section 75 NHS Act 2006 flexibilities to provide services in partnership with health organisations
- lifelong learning of those aged 19 years or more (excluding schools and school related services)
- Community Education Lewisham
- other matters relating to Health and Adult Care and Lifelong Learning for those aged 19 years or over.

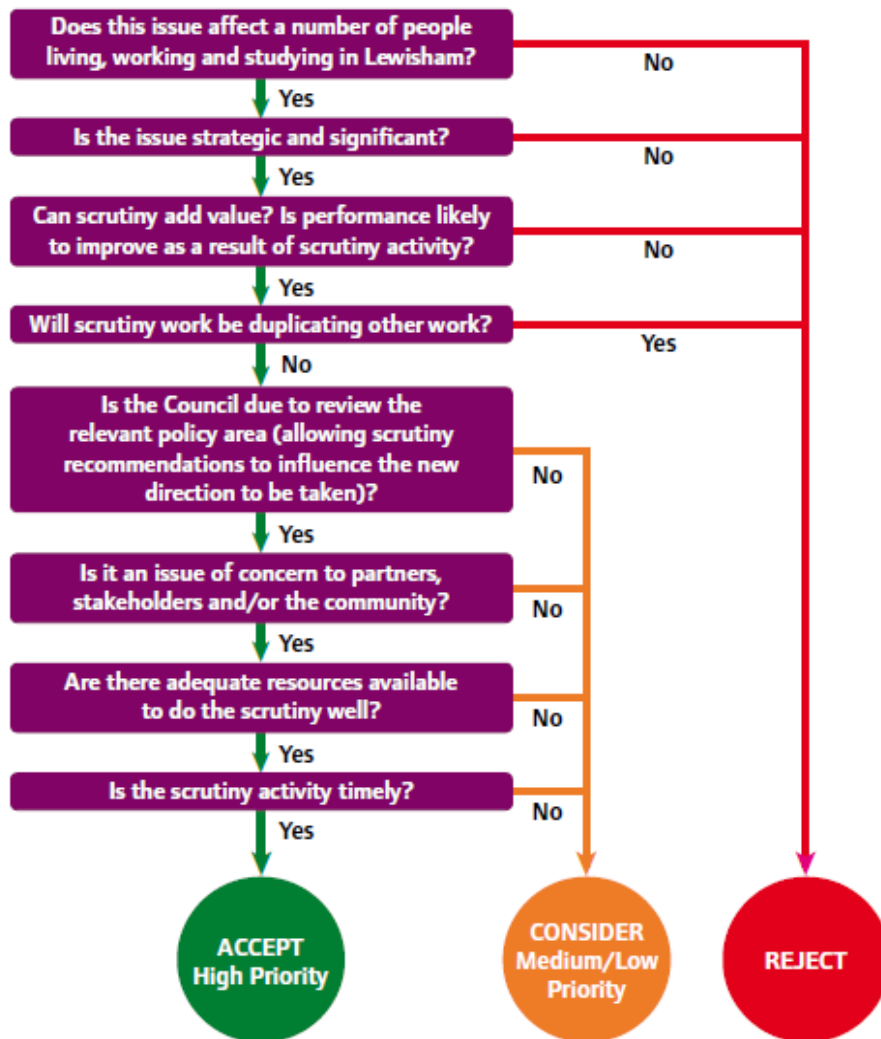
j) Without limiting the remit of the Select Committee, to hold the Executive to account for its performance in relation to the delivery of Council objectives in the provision of adult services and health and lifelong learning.

NB In the event of there being overlap between the terms of reference of this select committee and those of the Children and Young People Select Committee, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall determine which Select Committee which shall deal with the matter in question.

Appendix C

The flowchart below is designed to help Members decide which items should be added to the work programme. It is important to focus on areas where the Committee will influence decision-making.

Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process



Appendix D

Effective Scrutiny Guidelines

At Lewisham we:

1. Prioritise

It is more effective to look at a small number of key issues in an in-depth way, than skim the surface of everything falling within scrutiny's remit. We try to focus on issues of concern to the community and/or matters that are linked to our corporate priorities. We only add items to the work programme if we are certain our consideration of the matter will make a real and tangible difference.

2. Are independent

Scrutiny is led by Scrutiny Members. Scrutiny Members are in charge of the work programme, and, for every item, we specify what evidence we require and what information we would like to see in any officer reports that are prepared. We are not whipped by our political party or unduly influenced by the Cabinet or senior officers.

3. Work collectively

If we collectively agree in advance what we want to achieve in relation to each item under consideration, including what the key lines of enquiry should be, we can work as a team to question witnesses and ensure that all the required evidence is gathered. Scrutiny is impartial and the scrutiny process should be free from political point scoring and not used to further party-political objectives.

4. Engage

Involving residents helps scrutiny access a wider range of ideas and knowledge, listen to a broader range of voices and better understand the opinions of residents and service users. Engagement helps ensure that recommendations result in residents' wants and needs being more effectively met.

5. Make SMART evidence-based recommendations

We make recommendations that are based on solid, triangulated evidence – where a variety of sources of evidence point to a change in practice that will positively alter outcomes. We recognise that recommendations are more powerful if they are:

- Specific (simple, sensible, significant).
- Measurable (meaningful, motivating).
- Achievable (agreed, attainable).
- Relevant (reasonable, realistic and resourced, results-based).
- Time bound (time-based, time limited, time/cost limited, timely, time-sensitive).