

Healthier Communities Select Committee			
Title	Select Committee work programme		
Contributor	Scrutiny Manager	Item	10
Class	Part 1 (Open)	18 March 2014	

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 proposed work programmes of the six overview and scrutiny select committees and coordinates activities between them in order to maximise the use of scrutiny resources and avoid duplication.
- 2.2 The meeting on 18 March is the last scheduled meeting of the Healthier Communities Select Committee in the 2013-14 municipal year, as well as the last meeting of the 2010-14 Council administration. This report provides a brief overview of the Committee's work in the 2010-14 administration in preparation for the development of the 2014-15 Committee work programme.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Select Committee is asked to:
- note the completed work programme attached at **Appendix B**
 - consider the core issues covered in the 2010-14 administration
 - consider any matters arising that it may wish to propose for future scrutiny.

4. Healthier Communities Select Committee 2010-2014

- 4.1 The Healthier Communities Select Committee has had an important role to play in the oversight and development of a number of areas of strategic importance over the last 4 years. The Committee has carried out an in depth review into Preventing Premature Mortality; contributed to the cross-cutting Emergency Services Review; made a number of recommendations for improvement to services, via referrals to Mayor and Cabinet and partner organisations; and fulfilled its statutory duty under Section 7 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001, by scrutinising a number of proposals for substantial variations in the provision of local health services. The work of the Committee, and the evidence-based recommendations it has made, have had a direct impact on the development of both policy and service delivery in a number of areas. Below are some examples of the Committee's work:

4.2 Health Protocol

In consultation with partners, the Healthier Communities Select Committee developed a comprehensive Health and Social Care Scrutiny Protocol. The protocol covers (a) how the Committee discharges its responsibilities and interacts with local NHS bodies, the Local CCG and Lewisham Healthwatch; and (b) what is expected of partners within those interactions. The protocol underpins all the interaction that the Committee has with partners and it has helped consolidate relationships between the Committee and the health bodies it scrutinises.

4.3 Preventing Premature Mortality

In light of the publication of the white paper “Healthy Lives, Healthy People” in 2010, which set out the Government’s long term vision for the future of public health in England, the Committee decided to examine the action being taken to help people in Lewisham live healthier, longer lives and assess its efficacy and sufficiency. The Committee focused its work on the lifestyle issues primarily responsible for early deaths: smoking, unhealthy diets and lack of physical activity; and identified areas where more could be done to support, encourage and enable people to learn about and develop healthier lifestyles. The Committee made a series of recommendations which were adopted by the Council, schools and the local NHS and which helped shape local ‘Stop Smoking’ campaigns; enforcement action in regard to illegal sales of tobacco; and work to encourage healthy eating in schools. A further update on the implementation of the Committee’s recommendations forms a separate agenda item at this meeting.

4.5 University Hospital Lewisham

In 2012 the Committee met jointly with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Mayor & Cabinet to respond to the consultation on the report of the Trust Special Administrator (TSA) for the South London Healthcare NHS Trust, which included proposals affecting University Hospital Lewisham. Local residents, Hospital staff, GPs and the Council were very concerned about the proposals to no longer provide emergency care at the hospital and either reduce or remove critical care for women requiring hospital admission during pregnancy or an obstetric-led delivery. The result was a collective, robust response to the report which challenged the assumptions and processes employed by the TSA. When the Secretary of State for Health subsequently accepted the TSA proposals the Council took part in a judicial review of the decision which was decided in Lewisham’s favour and a subsequent appeal by the Secretary of State was dismissed.

4.6 Adult Social Care

The Committee hosted an afternoon tea for residents using Adult Social Care Services. This allowed service users to meet with councillors in a relaxed setting and discuss their experiences of the care and support services they receive freely. Feedback from this event was provided to relevant service managers so that the views of service users could help shape the services being provided.

5. Planning for the next administration

5.1 A work programme report will be put forward at the first Healthier Communities Select Committee meeting of the 2014-15 administration. The report will take account of the committee's previous work, and will draw on a range of sources for suggestions, as set out at paragraph 5.5.

5.2 The following items have already been suggested by Members of the Committee as potential work programme items for 2014-15:

- Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust – consideration of CQC inspection report
- The sustainability of community health projects.

5.3 The Public Accounts Select Committee recently carried out an in-depth review into the funding and financial management of Adult Social Care. One of its recommendations was that further scrutiny and monitoring should be carried out by the appropriate select committees on the following:

- The development of the local market for Adult Social Care services.
- The in-house direct payments process.

The Healthier Communities Select Committee may choose to consider both of these matters in 2014-15; although it might also be appropriate for the Public Accounts Select Committee to scrutinise the in-house direct payments process.

5.4 Each year the Committee receives the Healthwatch annual report and this will be available for consideration at the first meeting of the new municipal year.

5.5 As with the development of all new work programmes, suggestions for the 2014-15 work programme will be considered at the first meeting of the new municipal year and will be drawn from:

- 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;
- issues suggested by members of the public;
- issues suggested by members of the committee;
- petitions;
- standard reviews of policy implementation or performance, which is based on a regular schedule;
- items that senior council officers feel are important for the committee to scrutinise;
- suggestions from officers;
- decisions due to be made by Mayor and Cabinet.

5.5 The Lewisham Future Programme

Through the Lewisham Future Programme the Council must save a further £95m from its £285m budget in the four years from 2014-15 to 2017-18. In order to achieve the savings, the Council has embarked on a series of thematic and cross-cutting reviews to fundamentally review the way it delivers services. This will mean that savings will be delivered over longer time periods and will need to be agreed and taken as and when they are identified. Officers have committed to regular interactions with Members in order to facilitate scrutiny of the specific savings proposals arising from the major change programmes. The Select Committees will need to retain capacity in its work programme to consider these as is necessary.

- 5.6 At the beginning of the new administration the Committee will be asked to agree a provisional work programme for the coming year for submission to Business Panel. Members are asked to review the completed work programme for 2013-14 as well as the core issues covered and put forward any matters arising that should be considered as part of the 2014-15 work programme.

6. Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

7. Legal implications

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 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.

Background documents

Lewisham Council's Constitution

Centre for Public Scrutiny: the Good Scrutiny Guide

Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process

