

Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel		
Title	Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee Work Programmes 2017 – 18	
Contributor	Overview and Scrutiny Manager	Item 6
Class	Part 1 (open)	22 May 2017

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 (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.

3. Select Committee Work Programme setting 2017-18

3.1 The select committees have met to consider and agree their work programmes for the municipal year 2017-2018 (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 2016-17 municipal year
- topics recommended for scrutiny by senior officers based on recent and future developments
- suggestions from individual members
- a summary of recent issues and reviews carried out to ensure the work programmes build on previous scrutiny rather than duplicate.

- 3.2 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, to support members in identifying priorities and managing their workload (Appendix B).
- 3.3 In addition, they noted the advice of Business Panel, provided at its meeting on 28 March 2017, that because 2017-18 is the last year of the administration, they should consider work done to date and also focus their attention on key policy areas going into the new municipal year.
- 3.4 The draft work programmes attached at appendix A reflect the discussions held at the April 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.
- 3.5 The following in-depth reviews have been put forward by the select committees:
- The recruitment and retention of teachers - Children and Young People Select Committee.
 - Social prescribing - Healthier Communities Select Committee.
 - LGBT provision - Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee.
 - Household budgets - Public Accounts Select Committee.
 - Types of housing provision - Housing Select Committee.
- 3.6 The Sustainable Development Select Committee will agree on the topic for its in-depth review at its next meeting. An update will be provided to Business Panel at its meeting on 11 July 2017.
- 3.7 The Housing Select Committee review of types of housing provision will include affordable housing in large developments. At the last Business Panel meeting it was agreed that members of the Sustainable Development Select Committee would be invited to all relevant meetings given the possible overlap with their terms of reference.
- 3.8 The Children and Young People Select Committee and the Public Accounts Select Committee will meet jointly in June 2017 to look at school finance.

4. Scrutiny of the budget and Lewisham Future Programme

- 4.1 The work programmes attached in the appendices to this report may need to be modified in order to accommodate savings proposals brought forward for member consideration by the Lewisham Future Board.
- 4.2 The Council has already made savings of £138.4m to meet its revenue budget requirements since May 2010 and is proposing further savings of £23.2m in 2017/18. It is expected that the Council will need to identify further savings of circa £32.6m for the following two years, 2018/19 to 2019/20. This will bring the total savings in cash terms made by the Council in the decade to 2020 to just short of £200m. Monitoring

the impact of savings on service delivery and performance will continue to be of importance to select committees.

- 4.3 It remains officers' intention to bring forward savings for scrutiny and decision as and when they are identified. However, it is also recognised that the annual cycle will mean the majority of savings for the following financial year will be presented over the summer for decision in the autumn. Officers remain committed to regular interactions with Members in order to facilitate scrutiny of the specific savings proposals as they arise. The select committees will therefore need to retain capacity in their work programmes to consider these as necessary.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 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.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 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.

7. Equalities implications

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 At its meeting on 9 March 2016 the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee scrutinised the development and delivery of the Council's comprehensive equalities scheme. 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, Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee highlighted the fundamental importance of all select committees in planning their work programmes and scrutinising items in order to deliver the Council's equality objectives.

8. Background documents

- Lewisham Council's Constitution
- Draft minutes of the first meeting of the scrutiny select committees held in April 2017

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