

| Sustainable Development Select Committee | | |
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| Title | Select Committee work programme | |
| Contributor | Scrutiny Manager | Item 6 |
| Class | Part 1 (open) | 12 September 2018 |

1. Purpose

To advise Members of the proposed work programme for the municipal year 2018-19 and to decide on the agenda items for the next meeting.

2. Summary

- 2.1 At the beginning of the new administration, each select committee drew up a draft work programme for submission to the Business Panel for consideration.
- 2.2 The Business Panel considered the work programmes of each of the select committees on 24 July 2018 and agreed a co-ordinated overview and scrutiny work programme. However, the work programme can be reviewed at each Select Committee meeting so that Members are able to include urgent, high priority items and remove items that are no longer a priority.

3. Recommendations

3.1 The Committee is asked to:

- note the work plan attached at **Appendix B** and discuss any issues arising from the programme;
- specify the information and analysis required in the report for each item on the agenda for the next meeting, based on desired outcomes, so that officers are clear about what they need to provide;
- review all forthcoming key decisions, **Appendix C**, and consider any items for further scrutiny;
- consider how it will gather evidence for the three topics it has considered for 'rapid review'

4. The work programme

- 4.1 The work programme for 2018-19 was agreed at the Committee's meeting on 19 July 2018.
- 4.2 The Committee is asked to consider if any urgent issues have arisen that require scrutiny and if any existing items are no longer a priority so they can be removed from the work programme. Before adding additional items, each item should be considered against agreed criteria. The flow chart attached at **Appendix A** may help Members decide if proposed additional items should be added to the work programme. The Committee's work programme needs to be achievable in terms of the amount of meeting time available. If the Committee agrees to add additional

item(s) because they are urgent and high priority, Members will need to consider which medium/low priority item(s) should be removed in order to create sufficient capacity for the new item(s).

- 4.3 Items within each Select Committee work programme are linked to the Council's corporate priorities. Work is currently underway to develop a new corporate strategy, which will give corporate expression to the priorities of the new administration. Once developed, scrutiny work programmes can be adjusted to reflect the new corporate strategy and corporate priorities, if required. It is expected that the new strategy will be approved at full Council in November 2018.

5. The next meeting

- 5.1 The following reports are scheduled for the meeting on 29 October 2018:

| Agenda item | Review type | Link to corporate priority | Priority |
|---|------------------------|---|----------|
| Pubs | Rapid review | Clean, green and liveable; Inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity | Medium |
| Lewisham local plan | Rapid review | Clean, green and liveable; Inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity | High |
| Development of the local implementation plan | Standard item | Clean, green and liveable; Inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity | High |
| Catford town centre regeneration update | Standard item | Clean, green and liveable; Inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity | Medium |
| Lewisham future programme | Performance monitoring | Clean, green and liveable; Inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity | High |

- 5.2 The Committee is asked to specify the information and analysis it would like to see in the reports for these items, based on the outcomes the Committee would like to achieve, so that officers are clear about what they need to provide for the next meeting.

Lewisham Local Plan

- 5.3 At the Committee's meeting in July, it discussed potential topics for in-depth review. It was agreed that the Committee should explore the options for a review of 'sustainable place shaping' which would support Members in their scrutiny of the development of the new Lewisham Local Plan. However, the development of the plan is now at a stage at which the Committee's exploration of ideas for 'best practice' would likely miss the key deadlines for the drafting of the next stage of the plan. Notably, consultation on the 'preferred approach' for the plan is due to begin in early 2019. Officers will be in attendance at the meeting on 12 September to provide additional information.

Pubs

- 5.4 Following from the Committee's previous 'preserving local pubs' review in 2013, the Committee has agreed that it will revisit this issue. It is proposed that the Committee requests written submissions from key informants – including those who submitted evidence to the previous review, by way of a medium term update. The original review¹ sought answers to a number of questions regarding the management and operation of local pubs, specifically, it asked:
- Whether there had been a decline in local pubs and if so, whether the decline had been the result of identifiable factors?
 - Which of Lewisham's pubs were located in historic buildings and where this was the case what is done to protect historic buildings?
 - What happened when a pub closed?
- 5.5 For the review of this issue, it is proposed that the Committee seeks:
- Information from Lewisham's planning department on the update to the pubs evidence base study².
 - To revisit the question: what happens when a pub closes?
- 5.6 To determine whether:
- The Council's policy been successful in achieving its aims.
 - What changes might be required to improve the viability of pubs in Lewisham.

Strategic policy coordination and delivery

- 5.7 The Chair has proposed a thematic approach to the scrutiny of strategic policy implementation. Specifically, the Chair believes it is important for the Committee to understand how the Council's strategic priorities for air quality, sustainable transport and green infrastructure are coordinated and delivered. This is intended to ensure that issues that have an impact in one area are being considered in others.
- 5.8 The Committee's overarching interest is in 'sustainable place shaping' and it includes issues related to: the implementation of sustainable means of transport; enhanced pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and improvements to air quality as well as- support for local businesses and communities to thrive in Lewisham's high streets and town centres.
- 5.9 Rather than receive evidence at a single meeting, it is proposed that the Committee uses the entire work programme to answer these questions:
- What are the key policies that guide Lewisham's sustainable place shaping agenda?
 - Which officers have key responsibilities for the implementation of the Council's strategic place shaping objectives?
 - How does the Council coordinate sustainable place shaping activities between different departments?

¹ SDSC, 'preserving local pubs' (2012): <https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/mayorandcouncil/overview-scrutiny/Overview-and-Scrutiny-Reports/Documents/Preservinglocalpubsreview.pdf>

² Pubs in Lewisham 2017, policy review (2017): <http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s54141/06%20Appendix%201%20-%20Pubs%20in%20Lewisham%20policy%20review%20111217.pdf>

5.10 Updates on the development of the new Local Plan, as well as items on the Local Implementation Plan – air quality and work and skills strategies will all be of importance in helping the Committee answer these questions.

6. Financial implications

There are no 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.

Appendix A: Scrutiny work programme prioritisation process

Appendix B: Committee 2018-19 work plan

Appendix C: Key decision plan (the plan can be accessed online here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y8wgr9d2>)

Background Documents

Lewisham Council's Constitution

Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process

