

| Housing Select Committee | | | |
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| Title | Select Committee work programme | | |
| Contributor | Scrutiny Manager | Item | 8 |
| Class | Part 1 (Open) | Date | 6 March 2019 |

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Select Committee with an overview of the work programme for 2018-19 and to propose a draft work programme for 2019-20.

2. Summary

- 2.1 At the beginning of the municipal year each select committee is required to agree a work programme for submission to the Overview and Scrutiny Business Panel. The Panel considers the suggested work programmes and coordinates activities between select committees in order to maximise the use of scrutiny resources and avoid duplication.
- 2.2 The meeting on 6 March is the last scheduled meeting of the Housing Select Committee in the 2018-19 municipal year. This Committee's completed work programme is attached at appendix B. The Committee is being asked to put forward suggestions for the 2019-20 work programme.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Select Committee is asked to:
- Review the issues covered in the 2018-19 municipal year
 - Consider the prioritisation process and priority themes for the 2019-20 work programme
 - Put forward ideas and suggestions for Members of the Committee to consider for the development of their work programme in 2019-20
 - Consider any other matters that it may wish to suggest for future scrutiny, including topics for in-depth review.
 - Note the completed work programme attached at **appendix B**
 - Take note of the key decisions attached at **appendix C**
 - Note the draft work programme for 2019-20 attached at **appendix D**

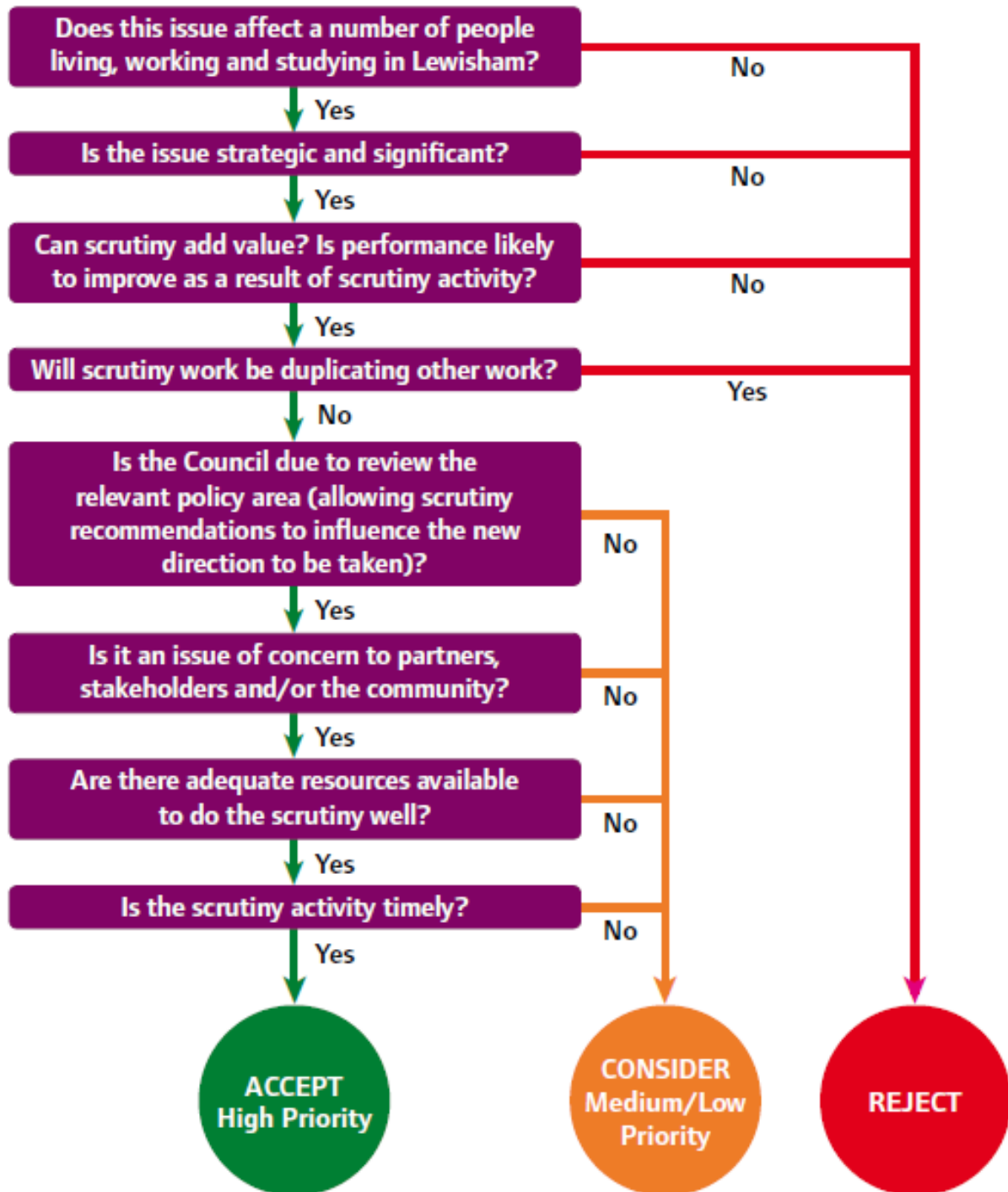
4. Housing Select Committee 2018-2019

- 4.1 The Housing Select Committee had 6 meetings in the 2018-19 municipal year:
- 5 July 2018
 - 18 September 2018
 - 31 October 2018
 - 17 December 2018
 - 31 January 2019
 - 6 March 2019

5. Prioritising and planning for 2019-20

- 5.1 Eight meetings will be scheduled for the 2019-20 municipal year. A work programme report will be put forward at the first Housing Select Committee meeting of 2019-20. The report will take account of the committee's previous work, and will draw on a range of sources for ideas and suggestions.
- 5.2 There are a number of matters that the committee may wish to consider for further scrutiny in 2019-20, these include:
- Lewisham Housing Strategy
 - New Homes Programme
 - Resident engagement in estate redevelopment
 - Homelessness Reduction Act
 - Fire safety
 - Tenancy sustainment
 - Private rented sector licensing
- 5.3 The Committee is also asked to consider a draft work programme for 2019-20 for members to review, revise and agree (see appendix D). The draft work programme takes account of the Committee's previous work and incorporates:
- the scrutiny prioritisation process and potential key themes and priorities for 2019-20
 - issues 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;
 - standard reviews of policy implementation or performance, which is based on a regular schedule;
 - items suggested by Council officers
- 5.4 The Committee will also need to give consideration to:
- issues of importance to Local Assemblies
 - decisions due to be made by Mayor and Cabinet
- 5.5 The flow chart below may help Members consider work programme items. 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).
- 5.6 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.

Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process



6. Housing Select Committee terms of reference

- 6.1 The Council's constitution sets out the Committee's powers, as defined by the terms of reference. These are included at **appendix A**. The Committee should familiarise itself with the terms of reference and consider its remit when selecting items for scrutiny.
- 6.2 As set out in the constitution, the Committee has a responsibility for scrutinising the Council's strategic housing functions as well as the work of Lewisham Homes and the Brockley Private Finance Initiative (PFI). The strategic housing division is responsible for delivering housing objectives based on the borough's corporate strategy and delivered through the borough's housing strategy.
- 6.3 The Council is responsible for a stock of approximately 18,000 homes. These are managed by the Council's Arm's Length Management Organisation, Lewisham Homes and the Brockley Private Finance Initiative. In previous years, the Committee has scrutinised the Lewisham Homes and Brockley PFI annual reports and business plans. Members of the Committee have also resolved to receive regular updates from these organisations. The Committee's terms of reference also give it the remit to establish links with social housing providers in the borough.

7. Financial Implications

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

8. 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

Appendix A

Housing Select Committee terms of reference:

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:

- (a) review and scrutinise decisions made or other action taken in connection with the discharge of the Council of its housing function
- (b) make reports or recommendations to the authority and/or Mayor and Cabinet with respect to the discharge of these functions
- (c) make recommendations to the authority and/or Mayor and Cabinet proposals for housing policy
- (d) to review initiatives put in place by the Council with a view to achieving the Decent Homes standard, making recommendations and/or report thereon to the Council and/or Mayor and Cabinet
- (e) To establish links with housing providers in the borough which are concerned with the provision of social housing