

Public Accounts Select Committee		
Title	Select Committee work programme	
Contributor	Scrutiny Manager	Item 8
Class	Part 1 (open)	20 March 2019

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To advise the Committee about the process for agreeing the 2019-20 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 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 20 March 2019 is the last scheduled meeting of the Public Accounts Select Committee in the 2018-19 municipal year. This report provides a summary of the issues considered in 2018-19 (the completed work programme) and asks the Committee to put forward suggestions for the 2019-20 work programme.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Select Committee is asked to:
- consider the Committee's terms of reference **appendix A** alongside the scrutiny work programme prioritisation process when adding items to the programme for 2019/20;
 - note the completed work programme attached at **appendix B**;
 - review the issues covered in 2018-19 municipal year;
 - consider any matters arising that it may wish to suggest for future scrutiny, including topics for in-depth review;
 - take note of the key decision plan attached at **appendix C** and consider which decisions will require further scrutiny.

4. Public Accounts Select Committee 2018-2019

- 4.1 The Committee had six meetings in the 2018-19 municipal year. The completed work programme is attached at appendix B. Key issues considered were:
- Children's and adult's social care;
 - Income generation and commercialisation;
 - Budget cuts and the Council budget;
 - Financial monitoring;

5. 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 meeting of the year for members to review, prioritise, revise and agree. The report will take account of the Committee's previous work and may incorporate:
- 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
 - issues suggested by members of the public
 - standard reviews of policy implementation or performance, which is based on a regular schedule
 - suggestions from officers
 - decisions due to be made by Mayor and Cabinet

Issues arising from the 2018-19 work programme

- 5.2 The Committee has already indicated that there are matters it feels should be considered for further scrutiny (this includes issues carried over from the 2018-19 work programme) these are:
- Overspending in children's social care
 - Income generation and commercialisation

Public Accounts Select Committee terms of reference

- 5.3 The Committee's terms of reference are included at appendix A. These are formalised in the Council's constitution.
- 5.4 The Public Accounts Select Committee's role is to promote good custodianship of the Council's finances and to make recommendations for best financial practice across the authority. This includes (but it not limited to) investigating ways to improve the Council's financial management practice and to improve procurement practice.
- 5.5 The Public Accounts Select Committee is consulted on the Council's budget as part of its role in holding the Mayor and officers to account for their performance in respect of all budgetary matters. The Committee also has a responsibility to scrutinise the effectiveness of the Audit Panel.

Items requiring follow up from Committee reviews and recommendations

- 5.6 Over the course of the year, the Committee made recommendations to Mayor and Cabinet on:
- Children's social care
 - Income generation
 - Financial control
 - Social value
- 5.7 Given the significance of these issues, the Committee may decide to consider them again in 2019-20.

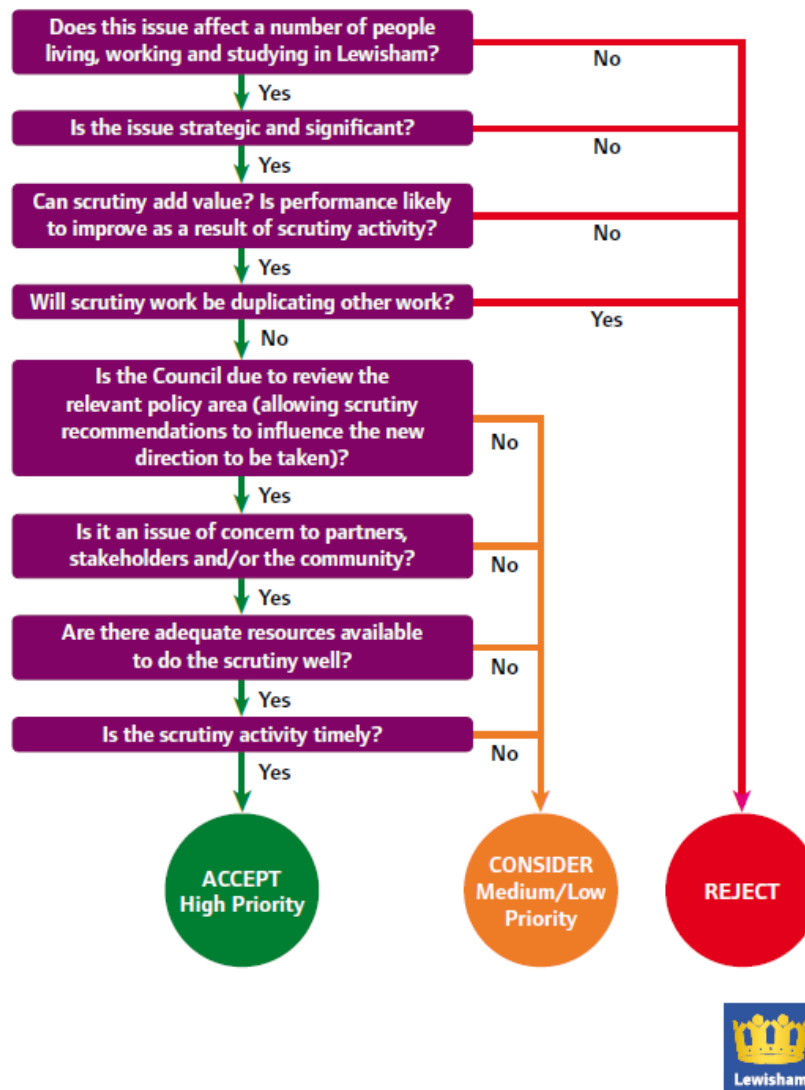
Standard reviews of policy implementation or performance, which are based on a regular schedule

- 5.8 In previous years, the Committee has regularly considered the Council's financial forecasts; treasury management strategy; asset management strategy; cuts programme; budget report and .

Suggestions from officers

- 5.9 The cuts programme: the Council has already made cuts from its annual revenue budget of £163m since 2010. The Medium Term Financial Strategy was reported to the Public Accounts Select Committee as well as Mayor and Cabinet in July 2018. This set out that an estimated £30m of cuts is required by 2020/21. To date saving proposals for £9.3m have been presented for scrutiny and agreed by Mayor and Cabinet for 2019/20, leaving a budget gap of £7.5m to be funded from reserves.
- 5.10 All scrutiny committees will need to allocate time to the scrutiny of further cuts proposals in the coming year. It should also be noted that a significant proportion of proposals this year related to income generating schemes. The Committee might decide to review the implementation of these proposals.
- 5.11 In deciding on items to add to the work programme for 2019/20, the Committee should give consideration to the work programme prioritisation process, which is based on best practice:

Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process



Decisions due to be made by Mayor and Cabinet

5.12 The notice of key decisions is attached at **appendix E**.

6. Financial implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. There will be financial implications arising from items on the agenda; these will need to be considered, as necessary.

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 Business Panel at the start of each municipal year.

8. Equalities implications

- 8.1 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 8.2 In summary, 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 It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, or to promote equality of opportunity or foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve the goals listed at 8.2 above.

The Comprehensive Equalities Scheme

- 8.4 The Council's comprehensive equalities scheme (2016-20) reconfirms Lewisham's commitment to five enduring objectives:
- tackling victimisation, discrimination and harassment
 - improving access to services
 - closing the gap in outcomes for all residents
 - increasing mutual understanding and respect within and between communities
 - increasing citizen participation and engagement
- 8.5 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. In particular, the Committee should note the Council's planned approach to the delivery of its enduring objectives through the delivery of key strategies and plans.

Background documents

Lewisham Council's Constitution: <https://tinyurl.com/lblconstitution2019>

Appendix A

Public Accounts Select Committee

- To make reports and recommendations to the Council or the Executive which promote the better custodianship of the Council's finances and to make recommendations for best financial practice across the authority.
- To investigate the possibilities for improving the Council's financial management practice and to make reports and recommendations to Executive or Council as appropriate.
- To encourage the highest standards of financial custodianship where necessary overseeing training activity for all members in this area.
- To consult on and to comment on and make recommendations to the Executive in respect of the actual and proposed contents of the Council's budget and without limiting the general remit of the committee, to hold the Executive to account for its performance in respect of all budgetary matters.
- To receive reports as appropriate from the Audit Panel in respect of their overview of contract procedure rules and financial regulations.
- To make recommendations and reports for consideration by the Executive or Council to improve procurement practice.
- To scrutinise the effectiveness of the Audit Panel.

Appendix B – the completed 2018/19 work programme

Public Accounts Select Committee Work Programme 2018/19

Programme of work

Work Item	Type of item	Priority	Strategic priority	Delivery deadline	09-Jul	25-Sep	07-Nov	20-Dec	05-Feb	20-Mar
Savings proposals	Performance monitoring	High	CP10	Ongoing			Proposals			
Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair	Constitutional requirement	High	CP10	Jul						
Select committee work programme 2017/18	Constitutional requirement	High	CP10	Ongoing						
Financial forecasts 2018/19	Performance monitoring	Medium	CP10	Mar				Capital programme		
Medium term financial strategy	Performance monitoring	High	CP10	Jul						
Final outturn 2017/18	Performance monitoring	High	CP10	Jul						
Income generation	In-depth review	High	CP10	Ongoing						
Cost pressures in children's social care	Performance monitoring	High	CP10	Sep						
Adult social care budget	Performance monitoring	High	CP11	Nov						
Mid-year treasury management review	Performance monitoring	Medium	CP10	Dec						
Finance control review	Performance monitoring	High	CP10	Dec						
Social value policy	Policy development	High	CP10	Dec						
Annual budget 2019/120	Standard item	High	CP10	Feb						
Asset management	Standard item	Medium	CP10	Dec						
Audit panel update	Constitutional Requirement	High	CP10	Mar						