



## Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee

### Report title: Select Committee Work Programme Report

**Date:** 4 March 2020

**Key decision:** No.

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Katie Wood, Scrutiny Manager

### Outline and recommendations

This report gives Committee members an opportunity to review the Committee's work programme and make any modifications required.

- To note the Committee's terms of reference attached at Appendix A;
- To consider the completed work programme attached at Appendix B.
- To consider potential items for the Committee's work programme in the next municipal year and possible items for future task and finish groups for the next municipal year.
- To review the forward plan of key decisions to consider whether there are any items for further scrutiny.

### Timeline of decision-making

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee (SSCSC) Work Programme 2019/20 – draft agreed at SSCSC 30.4.19

SSCSC Select Committee Work Programme 2019/20 – agreed by Business Panel 7.5.19

SSCSC Select Committee Work Programme 2019/20 – reviewed at meetings of SSCSC 22.5.19, 16.7.19, 12.9.19, 9.10.19, 26.11.19, 16.01.20

1. Summary
  - 1.1. The committee drew up a draft work programme at the beginning of the municipal year for submission to the Business Panel for consideration.
  - 1.2. The Business Panel considered the proposed work programmes of each committee on 7 May 2019 and agreed the overview and scrutiny work programme.
  - 1.3. This is the last scheduled meeting of Safer Stronger for the 2019/20 municipal year. The Committee's completed work programme is attached at Appendix B. The Committee is asked to put forward suggestions for the 2020/21 work programme and for potential task and finish groups.
2. Recommendations
  - 2.1. The Committee is asked to:
    - Note the Committee's terms of reference attached at Appendix A;
    - consider the completed work programme attached at Appendix B,
    - consider potential items for the Committee's work programme in the next municipal year and possible items for future task and finish groups for the next municipal year.
    - review the forthcoming key decisions set out in Appendix C, and consider any items for further scrutiny
3. Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee 2019-20
  - 3.1. The committee had eight meetings in the 2019-20 municipal year. The completed work programme is attached at appendix B. The committee undertook an in-depth review into "How the Council embeds equalities across its service provision." As part of this review, the committee went on a number of visits including to Glasgow City Council where there is a strong focus on equalities including consideration of socio-economic factors, and to the London Borough of Sutton where there is a focus on working with community partners to embed equalities. The review also commissioned an evidence submission from the Local Government Association and sought discussion with existing Council partners and community groups. As part of the review three workshops were organised for committee members on: the English Indices of Deprivation; Equalities in the Commissioning and Procurement Process; and Equalities Analysis Assessments in Lewisham. The evidence for this review formed a large part of the Committee's workload over the last municipal year. The final report will be considered at the first meeting of Safer Stronger in the next municipal year.
  - 3.2. The committee has spent time looking at policing and crime in the Borough including having updates on the Public Health Approach to Violence Reduction and the Safe Lewisham Plan. In addition to this, the Police Borough Commander for the SE BCU and the Borough Commander for Lewisham Fire Brigade have both attended the committee to give updates and answer members concerns and queries. This has led to a number of positive actions such as concerns around contacting ward officers being addressed and all Councillors being offered training on dealing with acid attacks.
  - 3.3. The Committee has continued to have a strong focus on community groups and the third sector, often through the consideration of equalities. This has led to the committee hearing evidence around adult isolation and the challenges facing older residents with community and voluntary groups such as Age UK, Lewisham Positive Ageing Council and Lewisham Pensioners Forum being invited to speak to the committee. Concerns around disability provision in the borough have also been considered and the Chair of

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the Lewisham Disability Coalition is due to attend the March committee meeting.

- 3.4. Over the course of the last year, the committee made a number of referrals including on the Council budget cuts. This included highlighting the lack of equalities information and detail on budget cut proposal RES 20 related to nursery provision. This was supported by CYP Select Committee and led to this cut proposal being deferred by Mayor and Cabinet to investigate in more detail. The Committee also highlighted that all Council subsidised rents to commercial and voluntary sector organisations should be understood and a list should be available for review and for scrutiny and highlighted to Business Panel the importance of all committees considering equalities implications. A referral was also made to Mayor and Cabinet that Safer Stronger Select Committee endorsed the Council looking at developing a Food Poverty Action Plan and to considering how it could be supported.

#### 4. Prioritisation and planning for 2020-21

- 4.1. Five meetings of Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee are provisionally scheduled for the next municipal year with the proposed dates as follows:

21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

9<sup>th</sup> September 2020

4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

- 4.2. A work programme report will be put forward at the first meeting of Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee for 2020-21 for members to discuss and agree. The report will take account of the Committee's previous work and may incorporate:

- The scrutiny prioritisation process and potential key themes and priorities for 2020/21
- 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;
- petitions;
- standard reviews of policy implementation or performance;
- suggestions from officers;
- relevant decisions due to be made by Mayor and Cabinet.

- 4.3 When deciding on items to include in the work programme, the Committee should have regard to:

- the criteria for selecting and prioritising topics;
- the Committee's terms of reference;
- the capacity for items in terms of the Committee's time and resources;
- the context for setting the work programme and advice from officers;

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### Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee terms of reference

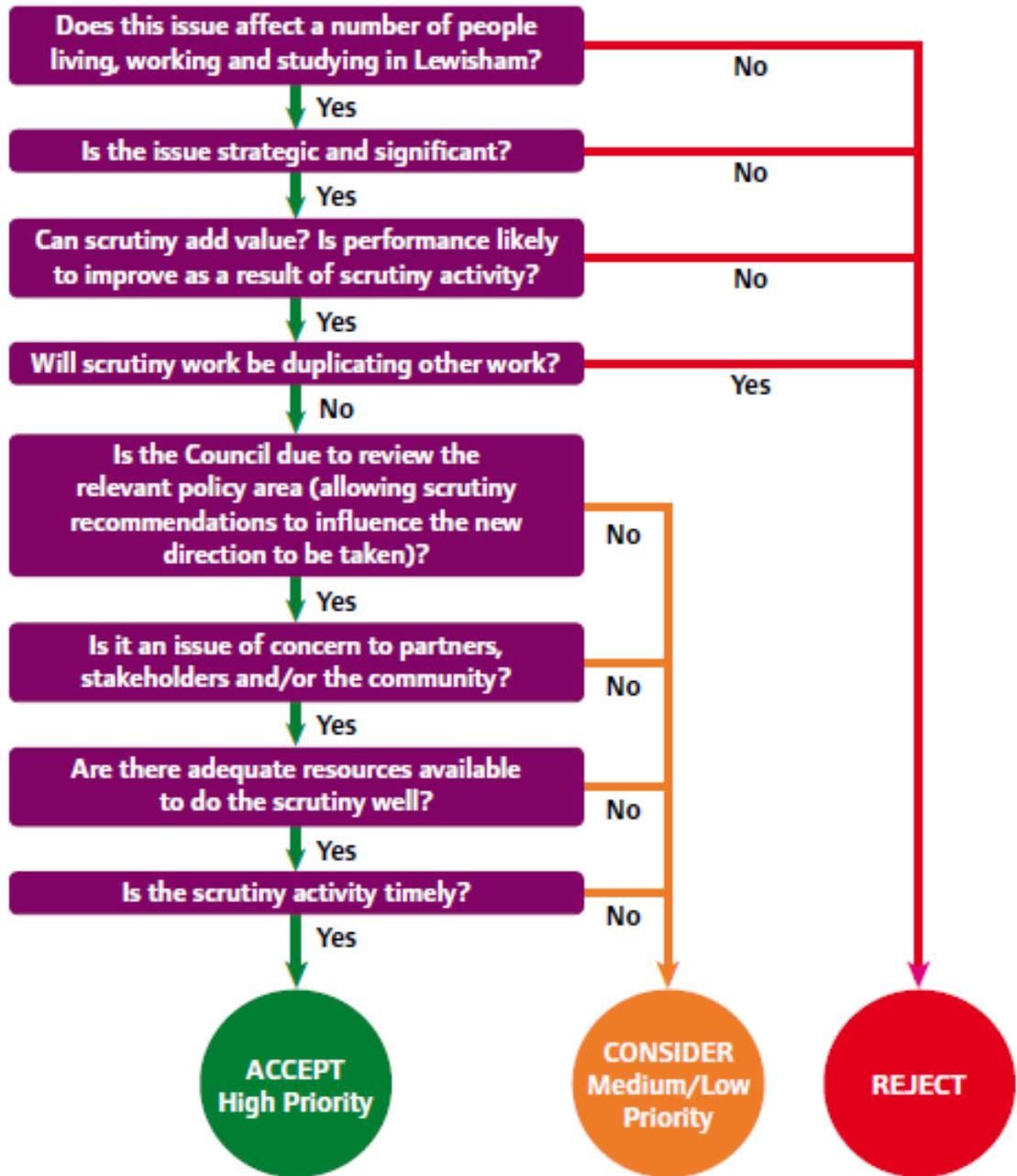
- 4.4 The Committee's terms of reference are included at **appendix A**.
- 4.5 The Committee's areas of responsibility, include, but are not limited to:
- Equalities
  - Community safety and anti-social behaviour
  - The community and voluntary sector
  - Local assemblies
  - Libraries
- 4.6 The Committee also has the responsibility for carrying out the statutory crime and disorder scrutiny function. The constitution sets out that this enables the committee to call before it members of the Safer Lewisham Partnership to explain decisions made or actions taken in the delivery of their crime and disorder functions.
- 4.7 The flowchart below, based on the model from the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) is designed to help Members decide which items should be added to the work programme. It is important to focus on areas where there is a clear recommendation and consideration by the Committee will influence decision-making.

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# Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process



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- 4.8 The remit of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee is broad and for the Committee to ensure its work programme is as tailored and focussed as possible delivering robust scrutiny, it is important to ensure items are prioritised and key outcomes identified. It is likely that due to the volume of work, the Committee will have to make difficult decisions considering where it can most add value and influence and which items are of most importance to the Council and Lewisham residents. Particular care needs to be taken regarding the potential for duplicating work by other committees and boards.
- 4.9 As well as using the prioritisation process above, the Committee may wish to highlight key themes which they believe to be of strategic importance for the Committee for 2019/20 and for possible task and finish groups. These can then be used by the Committee to help determine whether items should be added to the work programme.

### **Different types of scrutiny**

- 4.10 It is important to agree how each work programme item will be scrutinised. It is recommended that items for information only do not come to Committee. Typically, the majority of items take the form of single meeting items, where members:
- (a) agree what information and analysis they wish to receive in order to achieve their desired outcomes;
  - (b) receive a report presenting that information and analysis;
  - (c) ask questions of the presenting officer or guest;
  - (d) agree, following discussion of the report, whether the Committee will make recommendations or receive further information or analysis before summarising its views.

The new structure should free up time to seek different voices when considering topics. This could include independent experts, partner organisations or community representatives.

- 4.11 For each item, the Committee should consider what type of scrutiny is required and whether the item is high or medium/low priority (using the prioritisation process). Allocating priority to work programme items will enable the Committee to decide which low and medium priority items it should remove from its work programme, when it decides to add high priority issues in the course of the year.
- 4.12 Items within the committee's work programme should be linked to the priorities of the Council's Corporate Strategy. The Council's Corporate Strategy for 2018-2022 was approved at full council in February 2019.

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4.13 The strategic priorities of the [Corporate Strategy for 2018-2022](#) are:

**Open Lewisham** - Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all, where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us.

**Tackling the housing crisis** - Everyone has a decent home that is secure and affordable.

**Giving children and young people the best start in life** - Every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education, and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.

**Building an inclusive local economy** - Everyone can access high-quality job opportunities, with decent pay and security in our thriving and inclusive local economy.

**Delivering and defending: health, social care and support** - Ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.

**Making Lewisham greener** - Everyone enjoys our green spaces, and benefits from a healthy environment as we work to protect and improve our local environment.

**Building safer communities** - Every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.

## 5. Task and Finish Groups

5.1. Subject to agreement at the Council AGM, it is proposed that in addition to 5 meetings per year of each Select Committee, there will be up to six thematic Task and Finish Groups in the course of a municipal year. Members will suggest topics through a proforma and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will agree which topics should be taken forward. Each Task and Finish Group will then carry out in-depth work looking at a particular topic, gathering evidence and research, hearing from expert witnesses and going on visits where required. The Task and Finish Group will produce a final report with recommendations for the Mayor and Cabinet.

## 6. Referrals

6.1. Below is a tracker of the referrals the committee has made in this municipal year:

| Referral title                  | Date of referral | Date considered by Mayor & Cabinet              | Response due at Mayor & Cabinet | Response due at committee |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Select Committee Work Programme | 30.04.19         | Considered at Business Panel on 7.5.19          | N/A                             | N/A                       |
| Budget Cuts                     | 12.09.19         | 1. CYP -17.9.19<br>2. PAC – 24.9.19<br>3. M&C - | 11.12.19 for Referral 3         | 16/1/20<br>(delayed now)  |

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|              |          |                     |  |                                   |
|--------------|----------|---------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
|              |          | 10.10.19            | Only. (slipped<br>Further to March 20) | Next municipal<br>year            |
| Food Poverty | 09.10.19 | 20 November<br>2019 | Delayed to March<br>2020               | Delayed to next<br>Municipal year |

## 7. Information Items

- 7.1. Some potential work programme items might be low priority and may only require a briefing report for information to be produced for members outside of a formal committee meeting.
- 7.2. Below is a summary of the information items received by the committee in 2019-20:

| Item   | Date received |
|--|---------------|
| Public Health Approach to Violence Reduction | 9.7.19        |

## 8. Financial implications

- 8.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme will have financial implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

## 9. Legal implications

- 9.1. 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.

## 10. Equalities implications

- 10.1. 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.
- 10.2. 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.
- 10.3. There may be equalities implications arising from items on the work programme and all

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activities undertaken by the Select Committee will need to give due consideration to this.

11. Climate change and environmental implications

11.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme may have climate change implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

12. Crime and disorder implications

12.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme may have crime and disorder implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

13. Health and wellbeing implications

13.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. Items on the Committee's work programme may have health and wellbeing implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

14. Report author and contact

14.1. If you have any questions about this report please contact: Katie Wood, 020 8314 9446  
[katie.wood@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:katie.wood@lewisham.gov.uk)

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## Appendix A

### *Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee Terms of Reference*

- (a) To fulfil all overview and scrutiny functions in relation to the discharge by responsible authorities of their crime and disorder function as set out in Sections 19 and 20 Police & Justice Act 2006, as amended from time to time, and all other relevant legislation. This shall include the power:
- (i) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by responsible authorities of their crime and disorder function,
  - (ii) to make reports or recommendations to the local authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of those functions; and
  - (iii) to make reports and/or recommendations to the local authority with respect to any matter which is a local crime and disorder matter in relation to a member of the authority. A local crime and disorder matter in relation to a member means a 40 matter concerning crime and disorder (including, in particular, forms of crime and disorder involving antisocial behaviour or other behaviour adversely affecting the environment), or the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, which affect all or part of the electoral area for which the member is elected or any person who lives or works there.
- (b) make proposals to the Executive to promote equality of opportunity within the borough, including issues of discrimination based on race, ethnic origin, gender, disability, sexuality, age and/or class;
- (c) to recommend to the Executive, the Council or an appropriate committee proposals for policy development in relation to equalities issues;
- (d) to analyse policy options as necessary to inform the proposals to be made to the Executive or other appropriate committee;
- (e) to advise the Executive or other committee on all matters relating to equality of opportunity both in terms of policy, service provision, employment and/or access to public services;
- (f) to enhance and develop existing and innovative consultative and/or advisory work for equality of opportunity and to consider issues of inequality and discrimination across the borough;
- (g) to consider and recommend to the Executive, ways in which participation by disadvantaged and under-represented sections of the community might be more effectively involved in the democratic processes of local government;
- (h) to pilot methods of consultation and involvement and to report back to the Executive or appropriate committee on their effectiveness with recommendation if appropriate;
- (i) to establish links with and liaise with external organisations in the borough which are concerned with the promotion of equality of opportunity.
- (j) Overview & Scrutiny functions (excluding call-in) in relation to library provision.

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