



Sustainable Development Select Committee

Report title: Select Committee work programme report

Date: 12 November 2020

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1 (open)

Wards affected: All

Contributor: Assistant Chief Executive

Outline and recommendations

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

- To review the work programme attached at appendix D.
- To consider the items for the next meeting and specify the information that the Committee requires.
- To review the forward plan of key decisions at appendix E to consider whether there are any items for further scrutiny.

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Committee proposed a draft work programme at the beginning of the municipal year. This was considered alongside the draft work programmes of the other select committees and agreed by Business Panel on 29 September 2020.
- 1.2. The work programme should be reviewed at each meeting to take account of changing priorities.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to:
 - To review the work programme attached at Appendix D.
 - Consider the items for the next meeting and specify what evidence is required - being clear about the information the Committee wishes to be included in officer reports;
 - To review the forward plan of key decisions at Appendix E to consider whether there are any items for further scrutiny.

3. Work programming and prioritising

- 3.1. When reviewing the work programme (appendix D), the Committee should consider:
 - The Committee’s terms of reference (appendix A).
 - Whether any urgent issues arisen that require scrutiny. If so, refer to the prioritisation process (appendix B) and the effective scrutiny guidelines (appendix C)
 - Whether a Committee meeting is the most effective setting for scrutinising any newly identified issues;
 - Whether there is space on the Committee’s work programme to consider additional items (could any work programme item(s) be removed or rescheduled?)
- 3.2. The Committee should also consider how each item links to the priorities set out in the [Corporate Strategy for 2018-2022](#):
 - [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.

4. The next meeting

- 4.1. The following items are scheduled for the next meeting. For each item, the Committee should clearly define the information and analysis it wishes to see in officer reports.
- 4.2. The Committee should also consider whether to invite any expert witnesses to provide evidence, and whether site visits or engagement would assist the the effective scrutiny of the item.

Agenda item	Information and analysis	Corporate priority
Climate change emergency action plan		

5. Activity between meetings

5.1. This is a list of activity (including briefings, visits and engagement) that the Committee considers or carries out outside of formal meetings.

Item	Date	Corporate priority
Bell Green Vision document briefing	11 November 2020	CP6
Cycling		CP6
Annual parking report		CP6
Flood risk action plan update		CP6
Implementation of the air quality action plan		CP6
Waste strategy implementation and performance monitoring		CP6

6. Referrals

6.1. This is a list of the referrals the Committee has made to Mayor and Cabinet in this municipal year.

Referral title	Date of referral	Date considered by Mayor and Cabinet	Response due at Mayor and Cabinet	Response due at Committee
Catford Town centre regeneration	15 Sep 20	16 Sep 20	Tbd	Tbd
Railway Children Urban National Park: neighbourhood plans and environmental protection	15 Sep 20	16 Sep 20	Tbd	Tbd

7. Financial implications

7.1. 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.

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8. Legal implications

- 8.1. 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.

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1. 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.
- 9.2. 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.
- 9.3. There may be equalities implications arising from items on the work programme and all activities undertaken by the Committee will need to give due consideration to this.

10. Climate change and environmental implications

- 10.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. However, in February 2019 Lewisham Council declared a Climate Emergency and proposed a target to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030. The declaration tasked the Sustainable Development Committee with scrutinising the Council's emerging plans. Items on the Committee's work programme may well have (directly referenced or implicit) climate change implications and these will need to be considered as part of the reports on those items.

11. Crime and disorder implications

- 11.1. 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.

12. Health and wellbeing implications

- 12.1. 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.

Report author and contact

If you have any questions about this report please contact: Timothy Andrew (Scrutiny Manager) timothy.andrew@lewisham.gov.uk

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Appendix A – Select Committee terms of reference

- (a) To exercise all the functions and roles of the overview and scrutiny committee in relation to the following matters:
- to examine issues relating to the protection of the environment including ‘green’ issues such as the conservation of natural resources, air quality, energy efficiency and conservation and/or the reduction of all types of pollution and make recommendations to the Mayor and Cabinet as appropriate;
 - to comment and consult on and make recommendations to the Mayor and Cabinet in relation to the following:
 - i. sustainable development, economic development, business support, employment and training;
 - ii. the formulation of the Council’s planning policies, (including the preparation of the Council’s Local Development Documents and other local plans for the use and development of land, but excluding planning control and building control functions);
 - iii. highways, parking, traffic and transport, and urban regeneration;
 - iv. the environment including waste disposal, environmental health, street and market trading (but not the granting of licences and related matters);
 - v. public protection, refuse collection and disposal, street cleaning, consumer protection, cemeteries and crematoria;
 - vi generally to examine the performance of the Mayor and Cabinet in relation to the matters listed at (i) to (v) above.
 - the review and scrutiny of the exercise by risk management authorities of flood risk management and coastal erosion risk management affecting the area.

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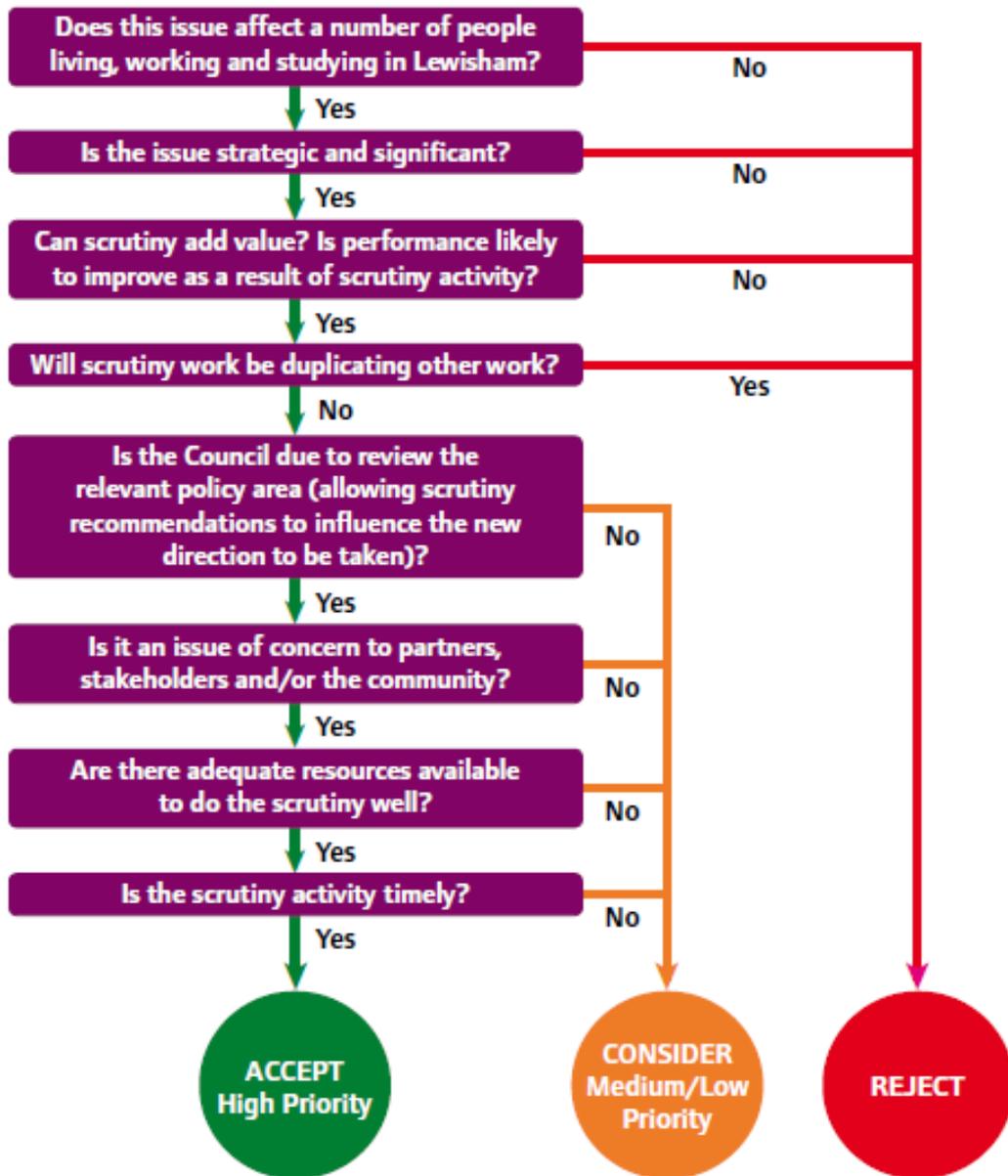
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Appendix B

The flowchart below is designed to help Members decide which items should be added to the work programme. It is important to focus on areas where the Committee will influence decision-making.

Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process



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Appendix C

Effective Scrutiny Guidelines

At Lewisham we:

1. Prioritise

It is more effective to look at a small number of key issues in an in-depth way, than skim the surface of everything falling within scrutiny's remit. We try to focus on issues of concern to the community and/or matters that are linked to our corporate priorities. We only add items to the work programme if we are certain our consideration of the matter will make a real and tangible difference.

2. Are independent

Scrutiny is led by Scrutiny Members. Scrutiny Members are in charge of the work programme and, for every item, we specify what evidence we require and what information we would like to see in any officer reports that are prepared. We are not whipped by our political party or unduly influenced by the Cabinet or senior officers.

3. Work collectively

If we collectively agree in advance what we want to achieve in relation to each item under consideration, including what the key lines of enquiry should be, we can work as a team to question witnesses and ensure that all the required evidence is gathered. Scrutiny is impartial and the scrutiny process should be free from political point scoring and not used to further party political objectives.

4. Engage

Involving residents helps scrutiny access a wider range of ideas and knowledge, listen to a broader range of voices and better understand the opinions of residents and service users. Engagement helps ensure that recommendations result in residents' wants and needs being more effectively met.

5. Make SMART evidence-based recommendations

We make recommendations that are based on solid, triangulated evidence – where a variety of sources of evidence point to a change in practice that will positively alter outcomes. We recognise that recommendations are more powerful if they are:

- Specific (simple, sensible, significant).
- Measurable (meaningful, motivating).
- Achievable (agreed, attainable).
- Relevant (reasonable, realistic and resourced, results-based).
- Time bound (time-based, time limited, time/cost limited, timely, time-sensitive).

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