Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee

Report title: Select Committee Work Programme Report

Date: 21st September 2021

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: Not applicable

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.

The Committee is asked to:

- To review the work programme attached at Appendix B.
- To consider the items for the next meeting and specify the information required.
- To review the forward plan of key decisions at Appendix E to consider whether there are any items for further scrutiny.

Timeline of decision-making

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee Work Programme 2020/21 – draft agreed on 16.06.21

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee Work Programme 2020/21 – agreed by Business Panel 20.07.21

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 20 Jully 2021.

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 B.
- Consider the items for the next meeting and specify what evidence is required, including 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

3.1. When reviewing the work programme the Committee should consider the following:

3.2. The Committee's terms of reference (Appendix A). The Committee's areas of responsibility, include, but are not limited to:

- The Crime and disorder function of the Council
- Equalities and equality of opportunity
- Community and engagement
- Library provision

3.3. Whether any urgent issues have arisen that require scrutiny. If so, consider to the prioritisation process (Appendix C) and the Effective Scrutiny Guidelines (Appendix D)

3.4. Whether a committee meeting is the most effective forum for scrutinising the issue. For example, would a briefing be more appropriate?

3.5. Whether there is capacity to consider the item - could any work programme items be removed or rescheduled?

3.6. Whether the item links to the priorites 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.

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- *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 enagement would assist the the effective scrutiny of the item.

Agenda Item	Information and analysis required	Review type	Corporate Priority
Budget Cuts		Performance monitoring/pre-decision	All
Equalities Review - Update on recommendations from in-depth review		In-depth review/ Performance monitoring	All
Equalities Discussion TBC			

5. Scrutiny between meetings

5.1. Below is a tracker of scrutiny activity, including briefings, visits and engagement, that has taken place outside of the committee meetings.

Agenda Item	Date due	Outcome	Corporate Priority
Equalities Data Digest	November 2021		ALL

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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
		16.9.20	11.11.20	1.12.20

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.

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 Select 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. Items on the Committee's work

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programme may have 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.

13. Report author and contact

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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 matter concerning crime and disorder (including, in particular, forms of crime and disorder involving anti-social 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

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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, including the following matters:-

1. to recommend to the Executive, the Council or an appropriate committee, proposals for policy development in relation to equalities issues;

2. to analyse policy options as necessary to inform the proposals to be made to the Executive or other appropriate committee;

3. 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;

4. 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;

5. 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;

6. to pilot methods of consultation and involvement and to report back to the Executive or appropriate committee on their effectiveness with recommendation if appropriate;

7. to establish links with and liaise with external organisations in the borough which are concerned with the promotion of equality of opportunity.

(c) Overview & Scrutiny functions (excluding call-in) in relation to library provision.

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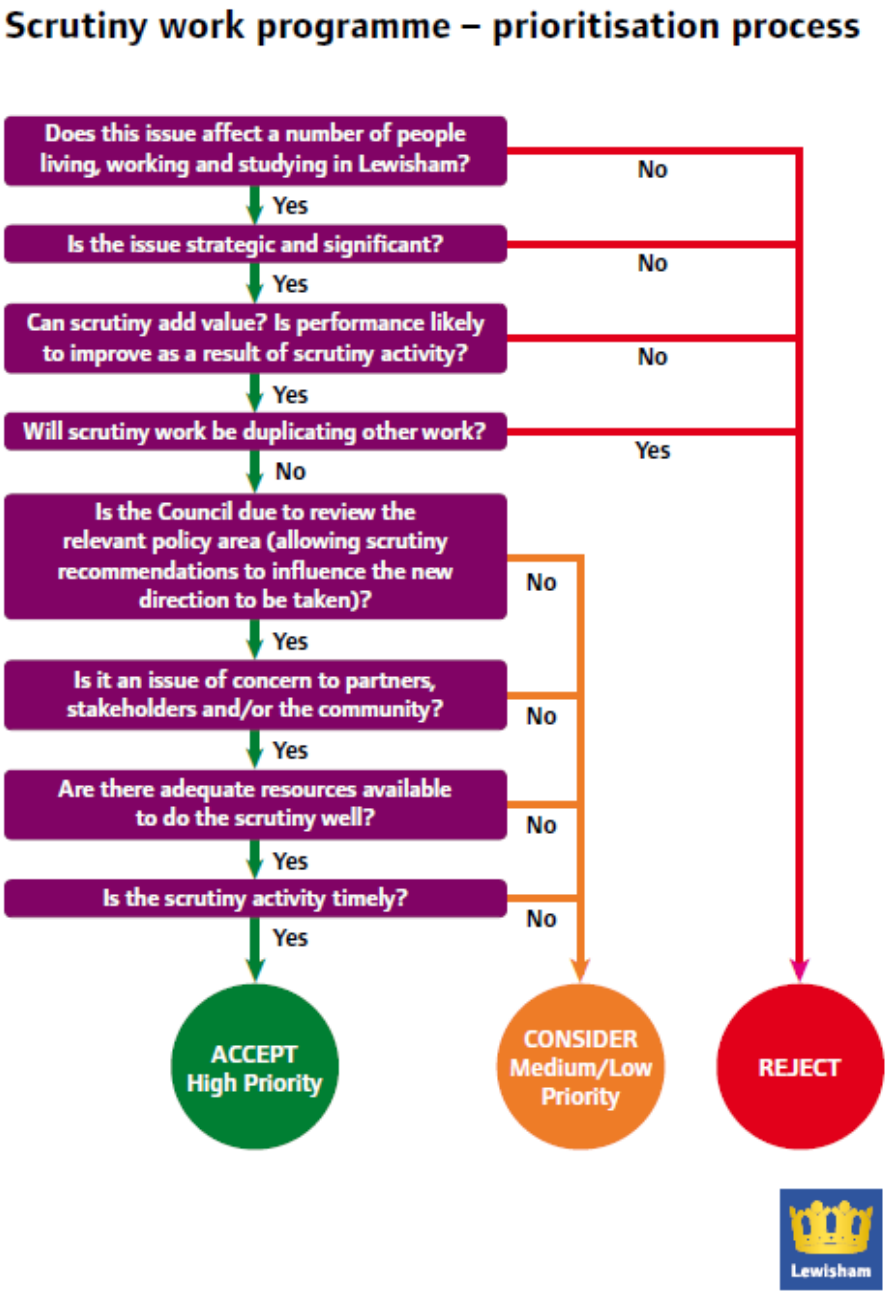
Appendix C

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.



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Appendix D

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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