



Children and Young People Select Committee

Report title: Select Committee Work Programme Report

Date: 25 November 2021

Key decision: No

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: Not applicable

Contributors: Assistant Chief Executive (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 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

CYPSC Work Programme 2021/22 – draft agreed on 17.06.21

CYPSC Work Programme 2021/22 – agreed by Business Panel 20.07.21

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 July 2021.
- 1.2. The work programme should be reviewed at each meeting to take account of changing priorities.

Recommendations

- 1.3. 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.

Work Programming

- 1.4. When reviewing the work programme the Committee should consider the following:
- 1.5. The Committee's terms of reference (Appendix A). The Committee's areas of responsibility include, but are not limited to:
 - Schools and related services
 - Children's Social Care
 - Transition for care leavers
 - Youth services
 - SEND provision for children and young people up to age 25
- 1.6. Whether any urgent issues have arisen that require scrutiny. If so, consider the prioritisation process (Appendix C) and the Effective Scrutiny Guidelines (Appendix D)
- 1.7. Whether a committee meeting is the most effective forum for scrutinising the issue. For example, would a briefing be more appropriate?
- 1.8. Whether there is capacity to consider the item - could any work programme items be removed or rescheduled?
- 1.9. Whether the 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.

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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

1.10. The committee should also note and take into account the four strategic themes of the borough's Covid-19 recovery plan, **Future Lewisham**, which support what we want for every single resident and that we know are what we need to focus on locally:

1.11. **An economically sound future**

We are working to get the borough back in business, with a future where everyone has the jobs and skills they need to get the best that London has to offer.

We are a borough with businesses that are adaptable and prepared for change, a thriving local economy that sees 'local' as the first and best choice, with digital inclusion at the heart of our plans. We do all we can to support residents into jobs that pay fairly and provide families with the opportunities and security they deserve.

1.12. **A healthy and well future**

Good health and wellbeing should be something we can all depend on, something that is equally accessible to everyone.

We know this is much wider than 'medicine' and the NHS. Our health and well-being is also dependent on our housing, the air we breathe, our support networks and more. We will make sure to pay as much attention and invest as much effort into improving these wider factors and taking action on inequality at every turn. Rectifying health inequalities and developing good mental health & wellbeing for everyone drives what we do.

1.13. **A greener future**

Our next steps will be our greenest yet, continuing our efforts to preserve our climate for future generations and ensuring everyone can enjoy the place we call home.

We will capture and build on the best of what we saw from the increase in walking and cycling locally, and all the other ways our environment benefitted from behaviour changes over the last year. We will nurture and protect the place we call home so that we can continue to appreciate its benefits for generations to come.

1.14. **A future we all have a part in**

We work together as one borough, within our communities and identities, to harness the power of volunteering and community spirit that has helped get us through the last year.

We will work alongside our strongest asset – our community – to strengthen and enhance our borough for everyone. We achieve more together and being connected and taking an active role in our borough benefits us all. Our year as Borough of Culture 2022 will be Lewisham's best year yet, celebrating our fantastic part of London and providing opportunities for everyone to connect and get involved in our local community.

1.15. The committee is recommended to schedule **two substantive items per meeting**, leaving space available for Mayor & Cabinet responses and other urgent business as the need arises throughout the year.

1.16. Provision is made for meetings to last for up to 2.5 hours, but the committee should aim to **manage its business within 2 hours**. In exceptional cases the committee may decide to suspend standing orders and extend the meeting for a further 30 minutes to conclude any urgent business.

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The next meeting

- 1.17. 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.
- 1.18. 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 required	Review type	Corporate Priority
Play Strategy		policy development	CP3 & CP5
Budget cut proposals		standard item	All
Embedding race equality in Lewisham's schools	to include data on exclusions, alternative provision & attainment	performance monitoring	CP3 & CP5

Scrutiny between meetings

- 1.19. 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
Meeting with Young Mayor candidates and advisors	13 October 21	Informal meeting took place	CP3 & CP5

Referrals

- 1.20. 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

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Financial implications

- 1.21. 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.

Legal implications

- 1.22. 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.

Equalities implications

- 1.23. 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.

- 1.24. 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.

- 1.25. 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.

Climate change and environmental implications

- 1.26. 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.

Crime and disorder implications

- 1.27. 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.

Health and wellbeing implications

- 1.28. 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

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the reports on those items.

Report author and contact

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Appendix A - Children & Young People Select Committee Terms of Reference

To fulfil all overview and scrutiny functions as they relate to the social care of children and young people up to the age of 19 years including but not limited to the following activities:-

The social services functions of the Council under the Children Act 2004, and all functions of the Council under the National Assistance Act 1948, the Mental Health Act 1983, Children Act 1989, the NHS and Community Care Act 1990, Children Act 2004, Children and Families Act 2014 and all other relevant legislation in force.

From time to time to invite representatives of other service providers to children and young people in the area to give account of their performance and to answer questions.

In so far as they relate to the provision of services for those under the age of 19 years, the exercise of all of the Council's powers under all relevant legislation pertaining to education from time to time in force. Without limiting the generality of this, this shall include, in particular, schools and school related services.

The exercise of the overview and scrutiny powers of the Council in so far as they relate to people under 19 years of age in the provision of opportunities for education, training and learning outside the school environment, including pre-school services.

In so far as they relate to children and young people under 19 years of age, to make comments and recommendations to the Executive on the contents and proposed contents of the plans making up the Council's policy framework.

In so far as they relate to people under the age of 25 years, to make comments and recommendations on the provision of education, training and learning by those with special educational needs.

Without limiting the remit of the Select Committee, its terms of reference include the following matters:

Child protection - covering provision for vulnerable children including children in need and children looked after, placements, foster care and adoption

- Early years provision
- Special needs provision
- Schools and related services
- Youth Service
- Transitional services for those leaving care
- Other matters relating to children and young people

To receive and consider referrals from Healthwatch in so far as they relate solely to people under 19 years of age. Otherwise such referrals will be made to the Healthier Communities Select Committee

Without limiting the remit of the Select Committee, to hold the Executive to account for its performance in relation to the delivery of Council objectives in the provision of services to children and young people.

In the event of there being overlap between the terms of reference of this select committee and those of the Healthier Communities Select Committee, the Business Panel shall determine the Select Committee which shall deal with the matter in question.

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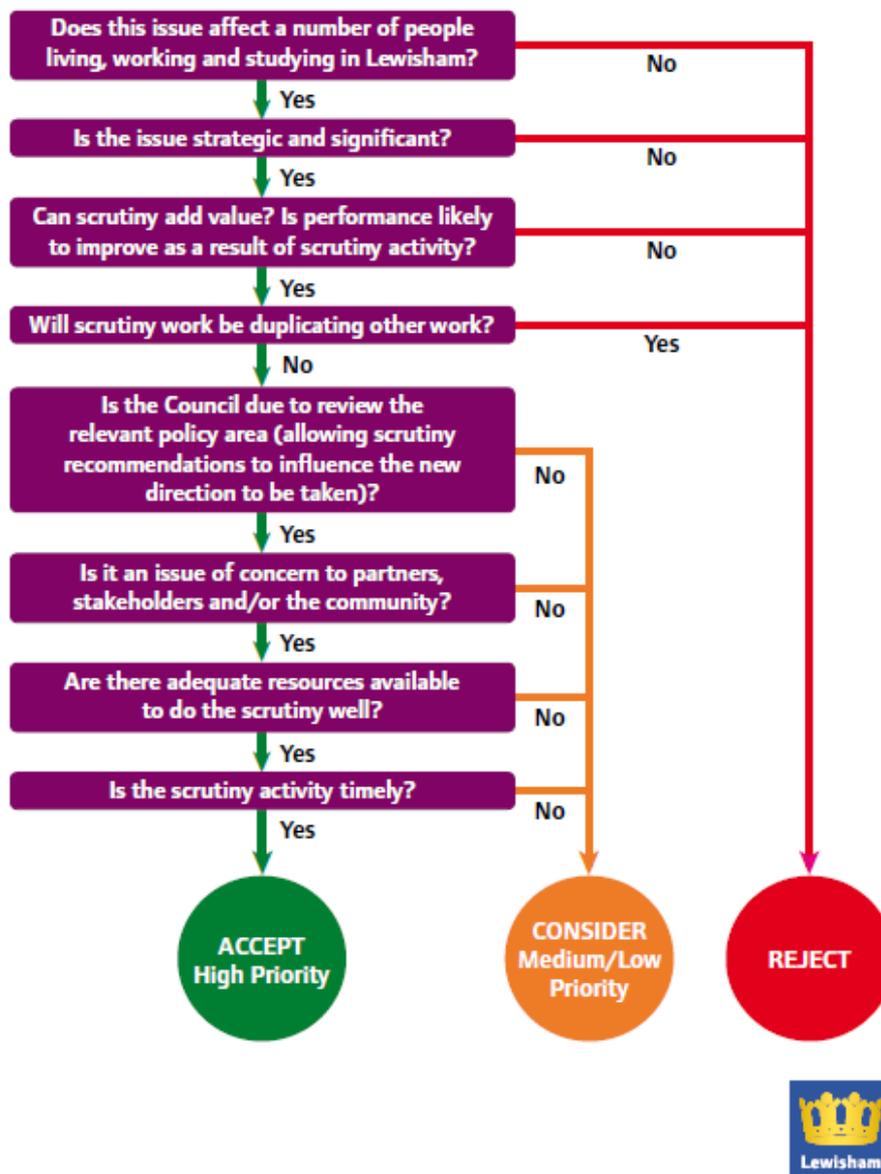
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Appendix C

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.

Scrutiny work programme – prioritisation process



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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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