

Work Programme 2016/17

Children's' Health, Social Care and Education

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 18th January 2016

Author: Director of Law & Democratic Services

Wards: All Wards

Locality Affected: All Localities

Parishes Affected: All Parish Areas

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to have a work programme that details the activities that it will be undertaking during the Municipal year.
- 1.2 The work programme details the various topics and issues that each Committee intends to look into during the coming year with the aim of producing evidence based recommendations intended to provide service improvements for Cabinet and external agencies/bodies to consider.
- 1.3 Under the Council's Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Committees are required to agree a work programme at the start of the municipal year outlining their priorities and likely outcomes of considering these issues.

The work programme is developed taking into account:

- Corporate priorities and objectives, including the Cabinet Forward Plan.
 - Partnership strategic priorities and objectives.
 - The interests and concerns of Members, Council officers, members of the public and other stakeholders such as community and voluntary groups and local businesses.
- 1.4 Committees are encouraged to review the work programme on a regular basis to ensure it remains relevant and to prioritise the workload of the Committee.
 - 1.5 Members are reminded that the work programme must also take into account:
 - The workload of the Committee and of individual members.
 - The capacity of the Scrutiny Unit and other officers to support a review.
 - The resource implications of carrying out a review.
 - The timescales for a review.
 - The most appropriate method of carrying out a review e.g. Committee meeting, Task Group, Member Champion review.

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- 1.6 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 have presented the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a role, remit and powers regarding local health matters.
- 1.7 The Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee is encouraged to be mindful of its role and remit when considering a work programme for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- Consider and discuss the Chair's proposal for the 2016/17 work programme.
- Approve the proposed Work Programme for the 2016/17 Municipal year.
- Appoint Members to any Task Groups agreed by the Committee.

3. Detail

- 3.1 It is important that Overview and Scrutiny adds value to the work of the Council and the Borough and produces tangible outcomes for local people that result in real service improvements. Selecting the right topics is crucial to ensure that Overview and Scrutiny will be effective.

The work programme will be reviewed at every Committee meeting or as the Committee sees fit to ensure that it remains relevant and that Members and Officers have sufficient capacity to effectively achieve its objectives.

- 3.2 The Work Programme attached at Appendix 1 includes these suggestions and the Committee is asked to approve the work programme for the 2016/17 municipal year.
- 3.3 Members of the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee are encouraged to work with Cabinet in the best interests of the Borough and to take into account the priorities and suggestions of Cabinet as detailed in the Cabinet Work Programme and Forward Plan, attached at Appendix 2 when considering the contents for their work programme.
- 3.4 In addition, attention is drawn to the Scrutiny Process Flowchart, attached at Appendix 3, which is aimed at assisting the Committee in identifying how they could influence policy development.

Task Group Reviews

- 3.5 The Committee is required to undertake individual reviews throughout the municipal year and proposals for reviews should be proposed and discussed at the Committee meeting.

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4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 The Committee can choose not to have a detailed work programme although it is recommended that it is best practice to do so.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial or procurement implications arising as a result of this report. Any expenditure arising as a result of an item on the Committee's work programme will be met by the Overview and Scrutiny Support budget, subject to the approval of the Committee.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Section 21 of the Local Government Act requires every local authority to establish an overview and scrutiny function to hold the Executive to account, undertake policy development and review, monitor and improve performance.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no other direct implications arising as a result of this report. Any further implications will be identified when a topic is reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee and in any recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee.

Links to One Swindon, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 The remit of the Committee includes the review, scrutiny and development of policy recommendations and the monitoring performance of corporate priorities including One Swindon.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 No Diversity Impact Assessment is required at this stage, any DIA that is required during review of topics included within the work programme will be identified at the appropriate stage.

Risk Management

- 5.6 No risk management issues have been identified at this stage. Any risk management issues will be identified at the appropriate time when a topic is under review by the Scrutiny Committee and if it makes any recommendations.

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6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Work Programme for 2016/17.
- 8.2 Appendix 2 – Cabinet Work Programme and Forward Plan for the period 20th December 2016 to 20th December 2017.
- 8.3 Appendix 3 – Scrutiny Process Flowchart.