
Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Sustainable Economy and Culture Scrutiny Board

Date: 1 July 2014

Subject: Sources of work for the Scrutiny Board

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. Scrutiny Boards are responsible for ensuring that items of scrutiny work come from a strategic approach as well as a need to challenge service performance and respond to issues of high public interest.
2. This report provides information and guidance on potential sources of work and areas of priority within the Board's terms of reference. In consultation with the relevant Director and Executive Board Members, the Scrutiny Board is requested to consider and confirm the areas of Scrutiny for the forthcoming municipal year.

Recommendation

3. Members are requested to use the attached information and the discussion with those present at the meeting to confirm the areas of Scrutiny for the forthcoming municipal year.

1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To assist the Scrutiny Board in effectively managing its workload for the forthcoming municipal year, this report provides information and guidance on potential sources of work and areas of priority within the Board's terms of reference.

2.0 Background information

- 2.1 Scrutiny Boards are responsible for ensuring that items of scrutiny work come from a strategic approach as well as a need to challenge service performance and respond to issues of high public interest.
- 2.2 The alignment of the Scrutiny Boards to the City Priorities continues to promote a more strategic and outward looking scrutiny function that focuses on the "Best City for..." priorities, as set out within the City Priority Plan 2011 to 2015. This city-wide partnership plan summarises the key outcomes and priorities to be delivered by the Council and its partners.

3.0 Main issues

Best Council Plan

- 3.1 A refresh of the Best Council Plan was agreed at Executive Board in March 2014, to reflect the progress made over the past year and the significant changes to the context in which the council is working, and to fully align it with the approved 2014/15 budget. The resulting 'Best Council Plan – Plan on a Page' is attached as Appendix 1.

City Priority Plan and alignment with the Strategic Partnership Board

- 3.2 As set out within its terms of reference, this Scrutiny Board is authorised to review or scrutinise the performance of the Sustainable Economy and Culture Partnership Board. In doing so, the Scrutiny Board will review outcomes, targets and priorities within the "Best City....for business" priorities, as set out within the City Priority Plan. These priorities are as follows:
- Drive the sustainable growth of the Leeds economy to support the creation of new jobs and new skills;
 - Promote low carbon businesses, buildings, energy generation and connectivity across the city;
 - Raise the profile of Leeds and its cultural opportunities.

In determining items of scrutiny work this year, the Scrutiny Board is encouraged to explore how it can add value to the work of the Partnership in delivering on the city priorities.

- 3.3 In line with the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules, the Scrutiny Board will also continue to act as 'critical friend' to the Sustainable Economy and Culture Partnership Board through an annual assessment of how well the Partnership is working in practice.

Other sources of Scrutiny work

- 3.4 The Scrutiny Boards' terms of reference are also determined by reference to Directors' delegations. As such, Scrutiny Boards have always challenged service directorates across the full range of council activities and the Scrutiny Board may therefore undertake pieces of scrutiny work in line with its terms of reference, as considered appropriate.
- 3.5 During the course of the last year, each Scrutiny Board has redefined the performance management information that it receives in line with its own requirements. The Board's performance monitoring role can often lead to the identification of areas for more detailed scrutiny. The quarter 4 performance report for 2013/14 is included as a separate item on the agenda.
- 3.6 Other common sources of work include pre-decision scrutiny, requests for scrutiny and other corporate referrals. Also attached for Members' consideration are the latest Executive Board minutes (Appendix 2).
- 3.7 Scrutiny Boards have always sought to work in partnership with one another where appropriate, in particular in cross-cutting areas which span more than one Scrutiny Board's terms of reference. In setting the work programme for the coming year, the Board is encouraged to consider areas of work which may benefit from a partnership approach.
- 3.8 The Board is also required to be formally consulted during the development of key policies which form part of the council's budget and policy framework. It is anticipated that the Scrutiny Board will be asked to contribute to the development of three such documents over the coming year:
- Leeds Local Development Framework Site Allocations Plan
 - Aire Valley Area Action Plan
 - Initial budget proposals

Areas of Scrutiny work brought forward from the previous year

- 3.9 The Scrutiny Board has been carrying out an inquiry into the role of the Leeds Let's Get Active Scheme in promoting public health during 2013/14, and resolved to receive a further progress report in the autumn of 2014, once the scheme has been operating for a year. The Chairs of both the Children & Families and Health & Wellbeing & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Boards have been participating in this inquiry.
- 3.10 The Board received a number of reports throughout last year to monitor progress with the preparations for the Tour de France Grand Depart in Leeds in July 2014. The Board agreed in February 2014 that it wished to receive a report on the cycling legacy proposals in early 2014/15.
- 3.11 During the consideration of budget proposals for the 2014/15 financial year, the Board was made aware of a request from the Leader, via the Scrutiny Board (Resources and Council Services), that this Scrutiny Board carry out an inquiry into asset management. The Board provisionally accepted the request in February 2014, also agreeing that the Chair of the Resources and Council Services Scrutiny Board

would be invited to join the Board for this inquiry. Draft terms of reference for this inquiry appear as a separate item on the agenda.

3.12 In March 2014 the Board accepted a request from the '20's Plenty for Us' campaign group - following a deputation to full Council and supported by the Executive Board - for an inquiry into the introduction of 20mph speed limits across the city. Draft terms of reference will be brought to the next meeting of the Board.

3.13 Other areas of work identified last year were:

- Annual scrutiny of performance in relation to the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, in line with the Board's statutory scrutiny function in regard to flood risk management issues
- Pre-decision scrutiny of proposals for apportionment of the Community Infrastructure Levy and prioritisation of spending (to include a representative from the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Board)
- Annual review of the delivery of employment and training opportunities using the council's planning and procurement powers
- A desire to undertake further scrutiny on the theme of employment, following on from the apprenticeship inquiry conducted in 2013/14.

4.0 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 It is recognised that in order to enable Scrutiny to focus on strategic areas of priority, each Scrutiny Board needs to establish an early dialogue with the Director and Executive Board Members holding the relevant portfolios.

4.1.2 The Director of City Development and the Executive Members for Transport & Economy; Digital & Creative Technologies, Culture & Skills; Neighbourhoods, Planning & Personnel; and Cleaner, Stronger & Safer Communities have been invited to attend today's meeting to discuss priority areas of work with the Scrutiny Board.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration.

4.2.1 The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules state that, where appropriate, all terms of reference for work undertaken by Scrutiny Boards will include 'to review how and to what effect consideration has been given to the impact of a service or policy on all equality areas, as set out in the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme'.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards promote a strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function that focuses on the City Priorities. This particular Scrutiny Board is authorised to review or scrutinise the performance of the Sustainable Economy and Culture Partnership Board. In doing so, the Scrutiny Board will review outcomes, targets and priorities within the Business Plan and "Best City....for business" priorities, as set out within the City Priority Plan.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 Over the last few years of Scrutiny Board work, experience has shown that the process is more effective and adds greater value if the Board seeks to minimise the number of substantial inquiries running at one time and focus its resources on one key issue at a time.

4.4.2 Before deciding to undertake an inquiry, the Scrutiny Board is advised to consider the current workload of the Scrutiny Board and the available resources to carry out the work.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 This report has no specific legal implications.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no risk management implications relevant to this report.

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 Scrutiny Boards are responsible for ensuring that items of scrutiny work come from a strategic approach as well as a need to challenge service performance and respond to issues of high public interest. This report provides information and guidance on potential sources of work and areas of priority within the Board's terms of reference. In consultation with the relevant Director and Executive Board Members, the Scrutiny Board is requested to consider and confirm the areas of Scrutiny for the forthcoming municipal year.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Members are requested to use the attached information and the discussion with those present at the meeting to confirm the areas of Scrutiny for the forthcoming municipal year.

7.0 Background papers¹

7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.