



Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (City Development)

Date: 15 June 2016

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. The vision for Scrutiny, agreed by full Council on 21st May 2015 (Appendix 1) also recognises that resources to support the Scrutiny function are, (like all other Council functions), under considerable pressure and that requests from Scrutiny Boards cannot always be met. Consequently, when establishing their work programmes Scrutiny Boards should
 - Ensure any Scrutiny undertaken has clarity and focus of purpose and will add value and can be delivered within an agreed time frame.
 - Avoid pure “information items” except where that information is being received as part of a policy/scrutiny review
 - Seek the advice of the Scrutiny officer, the relevant Director and Executive Member about available resources
 - Avoid duplication by having a full appreciation of any existing forums already having oversight of, or monitoring a particular issue
 - Balanced in terms of the workload across the Scrutiny Boards and as to the type of Scrutiny taking place

- Sufficiently flexible to enable the consideration of urgent matters that may arise during the year
3. 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 Directors and Executive Board Members, the Scrutiny Board is requested to consider areas of Scrutiny for the forthcoming municipal year. Martin Farrington, Director of City Development has been invited to today's meeting. In addition all Executive Board Members with City Development responsibilities have been invited to attend. Where attendance is not possible Executive Board Members have been invited to comment on the work of the Scrutiny Board in advance of the meeting for consideration by the Board.

Recommendations

4. Members are requested to;
- Consider the information provided and advice presented at the meeting to define areas of focus for Scrutiny for the forthcoming municipal year.
 - Request that the Chair and the Scrutiny Officer consult with the relevant Director and Executive Board Members regarding resources in line with the agreed Vision for Scrutiny and report back to the next meeting with a draft work programme.

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.

3.0 Main issues

Best Council Plan

- 3.1 A refresh of the Best Council Plan was agreed by Council in February 2016 to reflect the significant changes to the context in which the council is working. The resulting 'Best Council Plan – Summary' is attached as Appendix 2.

Other sources of Scrutiny work

- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 Other common sources of work include pre-decision scrutiny, requests for scrutiny, performance monitoring, recommendation tracking and other corporate referrals.
- 3.4 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. For this Scrutiny Board this means the Executive's initial budget proposals and the Site Allocation Plan. The Scrutiny Board (City Development) is also required to consider the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy in accordance sections 4 & 6 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Known or anticipated work has been provisionally reflected in the draft work schedule attached as Appendix 3. This will be developed and amended as areas for scrutiny are identified by the Scrutiny Board.
- 3.5 A list of topics recently covered by this Scrutiny Board is also attached as Appendix 4 for Members' information.
- 3.6 The most recent City Development performance data is included in this agenda (item 10) to provide the Board with a relevant summary of performance against the strategic priorities for the department. This information should support the Board in identifying further potential sources of work. The City Development Budget outturn report for 2015/16 and update for 2016/17 will be submitted for discussion at the July 2016 Scrutiny Board meeting which potentially may highlight additional areas for Scrutiny focus.

Submitted Requests for Scrutiny

3.7 Written requests for Scrutiny have been submitted to the Scrutiny Chair (City Development) and are attached as appendix 5 and 6 respectively for the Boards consideration. With regard to the requests detailed in the letter from Cllr Matthew Robinson, under the officer delegation scheme responsibility for Street Scene and Environmental Management including gully cleaning falls under the remit of the Director of Environment and Housing. The scrutiny request regarding gully cleansing has therefore been brought to the attention of the Scrutiny Chair of the Environment and Housing Scrutiny Board for further consideration.

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 Directors and Executive Board Members holding the relevant portfolios. The Vision for Scrutiny, agreed by full Council in May 2015 also states that Scrutiny Boards should seek the advice of the Scrutiny officer, the relevant Director and Executive Member about available resources prior to agreeing items of work

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 the Best Council Plan

4.3.1 The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards promote a strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function that focuses on the best council objectives.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 Experience has shown that the Scrutiny process is more effective and adds greater value if the Board focuses focus its resources on one key issue/inquiry at a time.

4.4.2 The Vision for Scrutiny, agreed by full Council also recognises that resources to support the Scrutiny function are, (like all other Council functions), under considerable pressure and that requests from Scrutiny Boards cannot always be met. Consequently, when establishing their work programmes Scrutiny Boards should

- Seek the advice of the Scrutiny officer, the relevant Director and Executive Member about available resources
- Avoid duplication by having a full appreciation of any existing forums already having oversight of, or monitoring a particular issue
- Ensure any Scrutiny undertaken has clarity and focus of purpose and will add value and can be delivered within an agreed time frame.

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 Directors, Executive Board Members and Scrutiny Officer, the Scrutiny Board is requested to consider areas of Scrutiny for the forthcoming municipal year.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Members are requested to;

- Consider the information provided and advice presented at the meeting to define areas of focus for Scrutiny for the forthcoming municipal year.
- Request that the Chair and the Scrutiny Officer consult with the relevant Director and Executive Board Members regarding resources in line with the agreed Vision for Scrutiny and report back to the next meeting with a draft work programme.

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.