

Report of Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support

Report to Scrutiny Board (Strategy and Resources)

Date: 21 July 2017

Subject: Work Schedule

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

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the Scrutiny Board's work schedule for the current municipal year.

2 Main issues

- 2.1 During discussions at the previous meeting, 22 June 2017, the Scrutiny Board discussed a range of matters for possible inclusion within the overall work schedule for 2017/18. The areas discussed included the following matters:

- Apprenticeships (for newly recruited and existing employees) and the apprenticeships levy;
- Equalities – in particular work around ensuring Leeds City Council has a workforce that is representative of the population;
- A recent report, *LGBT: Inclusive City*;
- Emergency planning and business continuity – with specific reference to (a) building security and (b) recent events in Manchester (Manchester Arena) and London (Grenfell Tower);
- Specific service areas (Finance, ICT, Human Resources, Communications (including International Relations), Civic Enterprise and Projects, Programmes and Procurement Unit (PPPU));
- General application of Contract Procedural Rules and levels of 'off-contract' spending.
- Invest to save developments – and the specific application in relation to ICT developments;

- Matters in relation to the Prevent strategy and the Hate Crime Prevention Agenda;
- Elections, voter registration rates and work targeting 'hard to reach' groups;
- Licencing policy review (due January / February 2018) and monitoring;
- Business rate revenue and appeals;
- General overview of the Council's financial health;
- Specific reference to Neighbourhood Networks, including whether or not services were the subject to grant funding or commissioned.

2.2 On behalf of the Scrutiny Board, specific information has been requested in relation to the following matters and will be shared with all Board members once received:

- The Apprenticeships Levy;
- Hate crime prevention;
- Voter registration rates and work targeting 'hard to reach' groups; and,
- Funding arrangements for Neighbourhood Networks.

2.3 A revised outline work schedule is presented at Appendix 1 for consideration by the Scrutiny Board. In considering the outline work schedule, it is important to allow sufficient flexibility to reflect matters as they arise during the course of the year. As such, it is also important to recognise that the work schedule presented may be subject to change and should be considered to be indicative rather than precisely definitive.

2.4 It is also recognised that the outcome of discussions from other agenda items at the meeting may impact on the future work schedule and will therefore need to be reflected in the discussion and/or consideration of this item.

2.5 In order to deliver the work schedule, the Board may need to take a flexible approach and undertaken activities outside the formal schedule of meetings – such as working groups and site visits, where deemed appropriate. This flexible approach may also require additional formal meetings of the Scrutiny Board.

Potential inquiry area

2.6 In 2016/17, as part of the consideration of the 2017/18 budget proposals and Best Council Plan refresh, the previous Scrutiny Board made the following recommendation, which was subsequently agreed by Executive Board in February 2017:

- As part of the development of the 'Leeds £' approach, there should be a review of joint funding arrangements in order to help ensure a consistent and strategic approach that is fair and equitable to all partners involved.

2.7 The Scrutiny Board is specifically asked to consider this potential aspect of work and confirm whether to include this within the 2017/18 work schedule. If agreed, more detailed scoping and proposed timings will need to be undertaken with the relevant officers.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Members are asked to:

- (a) Consider and agree (or amend) the overall work schedule as the basis for the Board's work for the remainder of 2017/18.
- (b) Confirm (or otherwise) the inclusion of a review of joint funding arrangements within the 2017/18 work schedule, subject to a more detailed scoping exercise with relevant officers.

4. Background papers¹

4.1 None used

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.