

Report of the Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 14 December 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 forthcoming municipal year.

2 Main Issues

- 2.1 A draft work schedule is attached as appendix 1. The work programme has been provisionally completed pending on going discussions with the Board.
- 2.2 When considering the draft work programme effort should be undertaken to:
- 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.
 - Avoid pure "information items" except where that information is being received as part of a policy/scrutiny review
 - Seek advice about available resources and relevant timings taking into consideration the workload across the Scrutiny Boards and the type of Scrutiny taking place
 - Build in sufficient flexibility to enable the consideration of urgent matters that may arise during the year

2.3 Attached as appendix 2 is the minutes of Executive Board for 15 November 2017.

2.4 With reference to minute 46, meeting 16 November 2017, the following recommendation as made by the Scrutiny Board 'That the Director of Children and Families considers extending the consultation period, currently in progress, for the Moor Allerton Hall Primary School and Allerton Grange High School Expansion, until one week after the publication of the Ofsted inspection report for Allerton Grange High School.'

A response from the Director of Children and Families was provided on the 22nd of November and is as follows:

'Thank you and members of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board for this recommendation.'

As always, I have considered this recommendation very carefully. In considering the request from Scrutiny Board the following points have been taken into account.

The consultation in question is known in statutory terms as the informal stage. It is the first part of the process whereby we meet with stakeholders to share and discuss the principles of the proposal before they are shaped into a formal proposal. As such many things may change as a consequence of the feedback.

The decision that Executive Board would potentially be asked to take is whether to progress to the formal stage of consultation. They would be provided with information on the consultation responses and any mitigation or changes to the initial proposal. If they were to agree to move to the next step, that step is a one of further consultation.

Even following any final decision on the education aspect of the proposal there will also be a further phase of consultation at the planning permission stage on the detail of the building project.

As the next step in this process could potentially be to simply move to a point of further consultation, and would be after the announcement of the OfSTED outcome, I do not consider it necessary to extend the current informal consultation period.'

To update the Scrutiny Board on the current position, the outcome of the consultation on the expansion proposal does not form part of the Executive Board agenda for 13 December 2017. The Ofsted report for Allerton Grange High School has also been published and can be accessed via the Ofsted website.¹

3. Recommendations

3.1 Members are asked to:

- a) Consider the draft work schedule and make amendments as appropriate.
- b) Consider the Executive Board minutes and determine if any matters require Scrutiny focus or action.

¹ <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/108058>

4. **Background papers²** - None used

² 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.