

Report of Head of Democratic Services

Report to Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth)

Date: 4 September 2019

Subject: Work Schedule

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open 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 remainder of the current municipal year.

2. Background information

- 2.1 All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year. In doing so, the work schedule should not be considered a fixed and rigid schedule, it should be recognised as something that can be adapted and changed to reflect any new and emerging issues throughout the year; and also reflect any timetable issues that might occur from time to time.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The latest iteration of the Board's work schedule is attached as Appendix 1 for consideration and agreement of the Scrutiny Board – subject to any identified and agreed amendments.
- 3.2 The work programme was updated to reflect the Board initial discussions in June 2019 and is routinely considered by the Scrutiny Board at each formal board meeting.
- 3.3 Traditional items of Scrutiny work have been incorporated into the work schedule, which involve recommendation tracking of work previously undertaken by the

Scrutiny Board; performance monitoring reports and any Budget and Policy Framework items.

- 3.4 Draft Executive Board minutes from the meeting held on 24 July 2019 are attached as Appendix 2. The Scrutiny Board is asked to consider and note the Executive Board minutes, insofar as they relate to the remit of the Scrutiny Board; and identify any matter where specific scrutiny activity may be warranted, and therefore subsequently incorporated into the work schedule.

Developing the work schedule

- 3.5 When considering any developments and/or modifications to the work schedule, effort should be undertaken to:
- Avoid unnecessary 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.
- 3.6 In addition, in order to deliver the work schedule, the Board may need to take a flexible approach and undertake activities outside the formal schedule of meetings – such as working groups and site visits, where necessary and appropriate. This flexible approach may also require additional formal meetings of the Scrutiny Board.

Developments since the previous Scrutiny Board meeting

- 3.7 The work programme has been developed to reflect the areas of focus as raised by the Scrutiny Board on 19 June 2019.

Scrutiny Board meeting – 31 July 2019

- 3.8 Furthermore, at the meeting in July 2019, the Board also agreed to the request for scrutiny associated with the development of a short-stay car park at Leeds Kirkgate Market. The precise timing of this aspect of work is yet to be fully determined and is therefore currently presented as unscheduled. It should be noted that Councillor Dobson – who submitted the request for scrutiny – has been advised of the Board’s decision to include this within its work schedule, and that the timing is yet to be confirmed.

Full Council – 10 July 2019

- 3.9 At its meeting on 10 July 2019, Full Council passed the following resolution in relation to supporting residents with a learning disability into employment:

This Council therefore re-commits to further enhance the lives of those with a learning disability by:

- *providing a strong focus in assisting all those with a learning disability the opportunity of work through the on-going establishment of the Learning Disability Hub and a targeted Jobs Fayre.*
- *welcoming a deputation of residents with a learning disability to address Council on what they would like to see the Council do to assist them further.*
- *asking the appropriate Scrutiny Board(s) to evaluate the work we are doing to create meaningful jobs across the city for those that want one, by:*
 - *Creating a greater number of meaningful employment/jobs within the Council.*
 - *Exploring how we can further work alongside DAWN and others to ensure those jobs have the support mechanisms needed to help individuals with a learning disability to 'get into' and 'stay in' employment.*
 - *Increasing the employment figures for people with learning disabilities.*
 - *Using its influence to encourage its partners in the public, private and the third sectors to do the same.*
 - *Supporting the Yorkshire Evening Post campaign 'Let's work together'.*

3.10 Given the links with some of the ambitions of the Council's Inclusive Growth Strategy; the Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth) is the most appropriate Scrutiny Board to evaluate the work being undertaken by:.

- Considering a specific report / agenda item at its October or November meeting; or,
- Considering the specific actions in January 2020, in the wider context of the Inclusive Growth Strategy.

3.11 The Scrutiny Board may also wish to consider expanding the scope of its consideration beyond residents with a learning disability.

3.12 In considering its preferred approach, the Scrutiny Board is advised that the Chief Officer for Employment and Skills has also been asked to present a report to Executive Board, most likely in October 2019, updating on progress against the 'Being Me' strategy along with recommendations of how the Council's ambition can be achieved.

4. Consultation and engagement

4.1.1 The Vision for Scrutiny states that Scrutiny Boards should seek the advice of the Scrutiny officer, the relevant Director(s) and Executive Member(s) 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.

Climate Emergency

4.3.2 When considering areas of work, the Board is reminded that influencing climate change and sustainability should be a key area of focus.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

4.4.1 Experience has shown that the Scrutiny 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 The Vision for Scrutiny, agreed by full Council also recognises that like all other Council functions, resources to support the Scrutiny function are 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 This report has no specific risk management implications.

5. Conclusions

5.1 All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year. The latest iteration of the Board's work schedule is attached as Appendix 1 for consideration and agreement of the Scrutiny Board – subject to any identified and agreed amendments.

6. Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to consider the matters outlined in this report and agree (or amend) the overall work schedule (as presented at Appendix 1) as the basis for the Board's work for the remainder of 2019/20.

7. Background documents¹

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.