

**Report of Head of Democratic Services**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles)**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**Subject: Work Schedule**

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|--|---|
| Are specific electoral wards affected?<br>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?<br>If relevant, access to information procedure rule number:<br>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 a document 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 Executive Board minutes from the meeting held on 24 June 2020 are also 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

- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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

- 3.5 On 16 March 2020, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, Leeds City Council took the necessary step to cancel a number of planned meetings of various Committees, Boards and Panels. This included all Scrutiny Board meetings and any joint scrutiny arrangements where the Council acts as the lead authority.
- 3.6 In cancelling Scrutiny Board meetings it was acknowledged that, after the urgency of the initial stages of the pandemic response, there would be opportunity to reflect and identify any lessons learned across different service areas and statutory local authority scrutiny functions would have an important role to play in this process.
- 3.7 With Council services focused on the urgent pandemic response and subsequent city recovery plan, the usual collaborative process of annual work programming for Scrutiny Boards was also suspended. However, in May 2020 all Scrutiny Boards were briefed on decision making relating to the areas of the pandemic response that fell within their respective remits and this may influence members’ priorities for the 2020/21 work programme.
- 3.8 In June 2020 remote public sessions of all Scrutiny Boards were introduced. There is continuing uncertainty about how future meetings will be hosted – they may be hosted remotely, be buildings-based or involve a hybrid approach. However, all meetings have been scheduled in such a way as to ensure they can continue to be resourced remotely if that is the required approach.
- 3.9 Other specific matters to consider are detailed below and have also been reflected in the latest iteration of the Board’s work schedule (see Appendix 1).

*Coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic – access to dental services in Leeds.*

- 3.10 During its last meeting, the Board requested a report detailing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic with regard to accessing dental services in Leeds. The Head of Co-Commissioning (Yorkshire & Humber) NHS England is the lead officer on this matter and unfortunately was unable to attend the Board's July meeting. As such, the Chair agreed to schedule this report for the Board's September meeting.

*Development of the Leeds Systems Resilience Plan for 2020/21*

- 3.11 As part of the agenda for today's meeting, the Board is receiving a report setting out initial findings of lessons learned within the Leeds health and care system on responding to the immediate health and care impacts of Covid-19 whilst also working to re-open services safely and appropriately. Within this report it is acknowledged that it is likely further lessons will emerge over the next weeks and months.
- 3.12 Linked to this, it is proposed that the Scrutiny Board receives an update report in September 2020 surrounding the development of the Leeds Systems Resilience Plan for 2020/21, particularly in terms of how the system is gearing up for winter and its ability to respond to any future spikes in COVID-19 in coming months.

*Local Mental Health Issues*

- 3.13 During the last municipal year, the Scrutiny Board considered a number of mental health related issues and gave a commitment to maintain a watching brief. These included the following:
- **Leeds Mental Health Strategy** - The Board considered the development of the Leeds Mental Health Strategy at its meeting in September 2019 along with the Healthwatch Leeds Report: Mental Health Crisis in Leeds. The Board requested to receive details of the Delivery Plan linked to the Leeds Mental Health Strategy Delivery Plan as well an update on the actions arising from the HealthWatch Leeds report.
  - **Leeds Mental Wellbeing Service** - During 2018/19 and 2019/20, the Board was involved in the review and redesign of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services in Leeds. Following this review and the associated procurement of a new service offer, the Leeds Mental Wellbeing Service was established.

The Scrutiny Board received a report on this matter in October 2019 and requested to receive a further update, after the planned public launch of the new service in April 2020, on progress surrounding the new arrangements and also the associated success measures.

➤ **Mental Health Services for Adults and Older People in Wetherby**

During 2018/19, the Scrutiny Board was made aware of proposed changes to mental health services for adults and older people in Wetherby. These changes formed part of a broader set of proposals brought forward by NHS Harrogate and Rural District CCG.

The proposals were formally considered by the Scrutiny Board in July 2019 and the outcome of public consultation and engagement, along with a corresponding action plan, was reported back to the Board in January 2020. At that stage, the Board requested to receive a further update on the implementation of the proposals and progress against action plan during autumn 2020.

- 3.14 It is now proposed that the Board adopts a themed approach during its October 2020 meeting around local mental health services. As well as using the meeting to address the Board's requests for updated information, as set out above, it will also provide an opportunity to reflect on how COVID-19 has specifically impacted local mental health services.

#### *Women's Health*

- 3.15 In July 2019, the Scrutiny Board considered a formal request to undertake an Inquiry into Endometriosis, how easy it is to be diagnosed and how accessible support is across the city for women of different ages and backgrounds. At that stage, Members of the Scrutiny Board were also advised of the published report, 'The State of Women's Health in Leeds' (March 2019), which included a specific section on reproductive health and identified a number of recommendations for health partners. While Members agreed that the issue of Endometriosis required attention, it felt that a focus on women's reproductive issues as a broader issue would be a more suitable approach than to focus exclusively on Endometriosis.
- 3.16 Unfortunately this particular piece of Scrutiny work was not able to be progressed due to other competing priorities within the Board's work schedule. Moving forward, it is now proposed that the Board utilises its March 2021 meeting, which is scheduled close to International Women's Day, to address issues surrounding Women's Health and to particularly reflect on how COVID-19 has had an impact too.

#### Aireborough Leisure Centre

- 3.17 At its meeting on 26 November 2019, the Scrutiny Board considered a request for scrutiny relating to the renovation of Aireborough Leisure Centre. The issues and concerns highlighted to the Scrutiny Board included:
- The overall delay in the completion of the renovation (approximately 18 months beyond the original 2-year timeframe)
  - Associated procurement and project management arrangements
  - Community access to sport and leisure facilities during the (extended) renovation works
  - Additional costs of the project (approximately £750,000)
- 3.18 Although the referral related to the active lifestyles aspects of the Scrutiny Board's terms of reference, it was agreed that representatives of the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board would also be invited to contribute in order to provide valuable input around the procurement and project management issues highlighted.
- 3.19 Arrangements were therefore being put in place for the Board to hold a separate/specific meeting in the locality near the Leisure Centre, including a proposed visit, during April/May 2020. However, such arrangements were disrupted by the pandemic emergency.

3.20 The Scrutiny Board is unlikely to be in a position to progress such arrangements in the near future and the local response and recovery plan linked to Covid-19 will undoubtedly remain a key focus linked to the work of the Scrutiny Board this year. As such, the Scrutiny Board may wish to suggest that the main issues linked to the renovation of Aireborough Leisure Centre now be referred to the relevant Community Committee for consideration.

#### **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 2020/21.

## **7. Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 None.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.