

Work Programme

Date: 14 February 2022

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Strategy and Resources)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- 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.
- The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules also 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'.
- Reflecting on the information in this report and information presented as part of other agenda items at today's meeting, Members are requested to consider and discuss the Board's work programme for this municipal year.

Recommendations

Members are requested to consider and discuss the Scrutiny Board's work schedule for the 2021/22 municipal year.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

1. A draft work schedule for the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board is presented at Appendix 1 for consideration and discussion. Reflected in the work schedule are known items of scrutiny activity, such as performance and budget monitoring, identified Budget and Policy Framework items and recommendation tracking items.
2. Members are asked to note that the usual Appendix 2 to this report containing the minutes of the most recent Executive Board cannot be appended due to publication of this agenda taking place in advance of the 9th February meeting and publication of the minutes on 11 February. The 9th February minutes and those scheduled from the Executive Board on 16th March will feature at the March meeting.

Changes to the Work Programme since the last meeting

3. As the work of the Board evolves changes to the work programme become necessary to prioritise and fit agenda items in at appropriate times.
4. Given the short turn around between the January and February meetings there are few developments to report in terms of changes to the work programme. Changes are limited to a decision to move the planned item on the Waste Inquiry to the 28 March meeting of the Board to address scheduling issues and allow more time for the document to be developed.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

5. All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year. The items in Appendix 1 set out the current programme of the Board and sets a framework for its work in 2021/22.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

6. To enable Scrutiny to focus on strategic areas of priority, it is recognised that each Scrutiny Board needs to establish an early dialogue with the Directors and Executive Board Members holding the relevant portfolios. The Vision for Scrutiny 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.

What are the resource implications?

7. 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.
8. 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.

9. 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.

What are the legal implications?

10. This report has no specific legal implications.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

11. There are no risk management implications relevant to this report.

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

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

Appendices

13. Appendix 1 – Draft work schedule of the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board for the 2021/22 municipal year.

Background papers

14. None.