

Work Schedule

Date: 26th April 2022

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

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

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'.
- As well as considering the latest iteration of the Board's work schedule for the remainder of this municipal year, Members are also requested to consider and discuss the draft work schedule of the successor Scrutiny Board for the 2022/23 municipal year.

Recommendations

Members are requested to consider and discuss the Scrutiny Board's work schedule (as presented at Appendix 1) and also the draft work schedule of the successor Scrutiny Board for the 2022/23 municipal year (as presented at Appendix 3).

Why is the proposal being put forward?

1. All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year and therefore the latest iteration of the Board's work schedule for the remainder of the municipal year is attached as Appendix 1 for Members' consideration.
2. The latest Executive Board minutes from the meeting held on 16th March 2022 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 consider any matter where specific scrutiny activity may also be warranted.

Developing the work schedule

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.
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

Publication of the final report of the independent review (known as the Ockenden Review) of maternity services at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust.

5. The Ockenden Review into the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust maternity services spans the period from 2000 to 2019 and was commissioned by the then Secretary of State for Health Jeremy Hunt MP at the end of 2016. Donna Ockenden was asked to lead the review, then comprising of 23 families, in the summer of 2017.
6. This [final report](#) was published on 30th March 2022 and follows on from the [first report](#), which was published in December 2020. It builds upon the first report, emphasising the importance of progressing the identified local actions for learning (LAfL) and immediate and essential actions (IEAs) to be implemented at the trust and across the wider maternity system in England. However, it also identifies a number of new themes to be shared across all maternity services in England as a matter of urgency to bring about positive and essential change.
7. In March 2021, the Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board had received a report on women's health in Leeds, which included a focus on maternal health and referenced the work being undertaken by the Maternity Strategy Programme Board to refresh the Leeds Maternity Strategy based around five key priorities (Preparation for parenthood; Personalised care; Perinatal mental health; The maternity reconfiguration; and Reducing health inequalities).

8. During this same meeting, the Board had also considered a report on the Leeds Fertility IVF service which included proposals to explore and test the market for opportunities to grow and sustain the service in light of a changing competitive market in Leeds.
9. The Chair therefore feels it would appropriate and timely to recommend that the successor Scrutiny Board utilises its July 2022 meeting to receive a report on maternal health provision in Leeds to include an update on the Leeds Maternity Strategy work; the current position of the Leeds Fertility IVF service; the implications of the Ockenden Review findings and how any recommendations are being taken forward across the local maternity system in Leeds.

Developing the work programme for the new municipal

10. Scrutiny Boards are subject to an annual review and appointment process as part of the overall governance arrangements presented and agreed by Council at its annual meeting each year.
11. As such, Scrutiny Boards have tended to adopt different approaches to planning for the new municipal year and providing a 'handover' of issues to be considered by the appropriate and newly constituted Scrutiny Board. Linked to this, a draft schedule of planned meeting dates for the 2022/23 municipal year has been provided (see Appendix 3). This draft work schedule also includes known items of scrutiny activity, such as performance and budget monitoring, as well as other identified areas of work that the Board has already recommended for the successor Scrutiny Board to pursue in the new municipal year.
12. In agreeing to recommend any specific matters for consideration by the successor Scrutiny Board, members should recognise the future work schedule will:
 - Become the responsibility of a successor Scrutiny Board (subject to the arrangements agreed by Council in May 2022).
 - Remain flexible and adaptable to reflect any new and emerging issues or changing priorities identified in the new municipal year.
 - Need to reflect any timetabling issues that might occur from time to time.
13. Nonetheless, setting out proposed meeting dates and a draft work schedule for the new municipal year will provide a foundation that will not only help with the initial planning for next year's Scrutiny Board, it also has the potential to help with planning the work programme in the longer-term.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

14. All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

15. 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?

16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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?

19. This report has no specific legal implications.

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

20. 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

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

Appendices

22. Appendix 1 – Latest work schedule of the Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board for the 2021/22 municipal year.
23. Appendix 2 – Draft minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 16th March 2022.
24. Appendix 3 – Draft work schedule of the Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board for the 2022/23 municipal year.

Background papers

25. None.