

Work Schedule

Date: 20 June 2022

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Strategy & 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 alongside information presented as part of other agenda items at today's meeting, Members are requested to consider and discuss the Board's work schedule for this municipal year.

Recommendations

Members are requested to consider and discuss the Scrutiny Board's work schedule for the 2022/23 municipal year.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

1. A draft work schedule for the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Board is presented at Appendix 1 for consideration and discussion. Reflected in the work schedule are known items of scrutiny activity, including performance and budget monitoring, identified Budget and Policy Framework items and recommendation tracking.
2. The latest Executive Board minutes from the meeting held on 20 April 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.

Areas of work carried forward from the former Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Board

3. At its final meeting of 2020/21 the former Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Board considered ongoing priorities that members recommended the successor board continue to scrutinise. These are reflected in the work programme at Appendix 1.
4. The 2021/22 Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Board also approved a Statement of Evidence in relation to an inquiry into the future of waste services in Leeds. This is attached at Appendix 3 for information.
5. In 2021/22 the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board heard evidence from representatives of the staff networks including the BAME network. Board members considered representations including a desire to see stronger action taken in relation to racist behaviour and for that to be dealt with under a specific zero-tolerance policy. A view was expressed to the Board that such a policy would signpost racism directly to disciplinary proceedings as opposed to through a standard grievance-policy. The Board requested that a statement be drafted summarising its conclusions in relation to the issue of zero-tolerance and tribunals/grievance and that this should then be provided to the Executive Board member for her consideration.
6. The draft statement is included at Appendix 4 and Board members are asked to confirm that they are happy for this to now be provided to the Executive Board member.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

7. All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year.
8. The draft work schedule is reflective of the views of the former Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Board.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

9. 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.
10. Relevant Director(s) and Executive Board Members have therefore been invited to today's meeting to share their views and contribute to the Board's discussion.

What are the resource implications?

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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?

14. This report has no specific legal implications.

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

15. 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

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

Appendices

17. Appendix 1 – Draft work schedule of the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Board for the 2022/23 municipal year.

18. Appendix 2 – Draft minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 20 April 2022.

19. Appendix 3 – Statement of Evidence in relation to the 2021/22 joint inquiry into the future of waste services.

20. Appendix 4 – Draft statement in relation to taking a zero-tolerance approach to racism, in line with the evidence presented to the 2021/22 Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board.

Background papers

21. None.