

Work Schedule

Date: 23rd June 2022

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities)

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 also 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 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 Environment, Housing and Communities 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, as well as other areas of work recommended by the former Scrutiny Board to be pursued in the 2022/23 municipal year.
2. The latest Executive Board minutes from the meeting held on 20th 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.

Inquiry work carried forward from the previous municipal year

3. In September 2021 the Environment, Housing & Communities Scrutiny Board agreed to lead an inquiry into the future of waste services in Leeds, with the Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board also taking on additional delegated responsibility for specific aspects of that work.
4. The Environment Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board determined that its focus would be on a forward-looking review of how recycling services could be enhanced and how waste management services could become more sustainable and resilient. The Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board would in turn primarily focus on the costs of recycling and the contracts related to the delivery of new services.
5. It was originally anticipated that the Board would be in a position to publish its conclusions and recommendations at the end of the 2021/22 municipal year. However, by March 2022 several pieces of evidence deemed fundamental to the inquiry, including further detail regarding the implementation of proposals set out within the National Resources and Waste Strategy, had not been available for consideration by the Scrutiny Board. As such, an interim Statement was instead brought to the Scrutiny Board's meeting in March 2022 setting out the progress made with this inquiry, along with the recommendation that the successor scrutiny board continues this work in the new 2022/23 municipal year ([link to Statement](#)).
6. The Chair will therefore be discussing appropriate next steps as the Board considers its work schedule for the forthcoming year.

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.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

8. In order to enable Scrutiny to focus on strategic areas of priority, it is recognised that each Scrutiny Board needs to establish an early dialogue with those Directors and Executive Board Members whose remits are aligned to that of the Scrutiny Board. The Vision for

Scrutiny also states that Scrutiny Boards should seek the advice of the Scrutiny officer, the relevant Director and Executive Members about available resources prior to agreeing items of work.

9. The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment and the Director of Resources, along with relevant 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?

10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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?

13. This report has no specific legal implications.

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

14. 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

15. The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards promote a strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function that focuses on the Best City Ambition.

Appendices

16. Appendix 1 – Draft work schedule of the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board for the 2022/23 municipal year.
17. Appendix 2 – Draft minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 20th April 2022.

Background papers

18. None.