

Work Schedule

Date: 8 December 2022

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth)

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 Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth 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 23 November 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.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

3. All Scrutiny Boards are required to determine and manage their own work schedule for the municipal year.
4. The draft work schedule is reflective of the views of the former Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board.

Budget Consultation

5. Members of the Scrutiny Board are asked to note that an invitation has now been issued for a remote working group on **14 December at 10.30am** at which the initial budget proposals will be discussed, so far as they relate the remit of the Scrutiny Board.
6. Each of the five Scrutiny Boards will have opportunity to discuss the initial proposals informally in December. Members will then have further opportunity to discuss the formal proposals (as agreed at December's Executive Board meeting) during the January cycle of public Scrutiny Board meetings. A composite statement summarising the views of the five Boards will be submitted for consideration by the Executive Board in February.

Social Progress Index

7. Immediately after the Budget Consultation working group, members are invited to attend a remote presentation on the Social Progress Index. This remote session will take place on **Wednesday 14 December 11.30 -12.30**.
8. Over several years, the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board has consistently challenged decision makers about the need for a credible and robust means of measuring the impact of the Council's Inclusive Growth Strategy. In response to this challenge, in January 2022 the Scrutiny Board received an update on the development of the Leeds Social Progress Index (SPI).
9. The first version of the Leeds SPI was presented to the Scrutiny Board as a tool for providing a "comprehensive measure of quality of life" in addition to other narrower economic measures such as GDP. Subsequently, the Board has welcomed the decision that the implementation of the Best City Ambition will use the SPI to help understand the impact of interventions, and the various strengths and challenges facing Leeds communities.
10. All Scrutiny Boards will be considering both a Best City Ambition update and performance monitoring in January 2023. The SPI, which has developed further since January 2022, will be a key part of the performance analysis that is reported to the respective Boards.
11. Cllr Truswell has therefore asked officers to deliver an online update, which is open to all Scrutiny Board members, ahead of the various annual performance monitoring discussions that are due to take place in January. In addition, this will provide further context for the discussion of the Inclusive Growth strategy by the Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board in March 2023.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

12. To enable Scrutiny to focus on strategic areas of priority, it is recognised that each Scrutiny Board needs to maintain 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?

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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?

16. This report has no specific legal implications.

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

17. 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

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

Appendices

19. Appendix 1 – Draft work schedule of the Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board for the 2022/23 municipal year.

20. Appendix 2 – Minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 23 November 2022.

Background papers

21. None.