

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 3RD JUNE 2019

Report of the Head of Strategic Support

ITEM 7 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose of the Report

To enable the Commission to review and agree the scrutiny work programme.

Action Requested

1. To review and amend the scrutiny work programme to ensure that it is fit for purpose and that any items which no longer warrant scrutiny are removed and any items requiring scrutiny are added (see Appendix 1).
2. To consider establishing a scrutiny panel to consider “*Meeting Affordable Housing Needs in the Borough*”, on the basis of the proposed scrutiny scope document drafted by former Councillor Bebbington with assistance from the Democratic Services Manager and other relevant officers (see Appendix 2).

Reasons

1. To enable the Council’s new scrutiny arrangements to operate efficiently and effectively.
2. Reasons for scrutiny are set out in the proposed scrutiny scope document attached at Appendix 2.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Corporate Plan commits the Council to review and improve its approach to the delivery of services to ensure it is constantly working to achieve a better service, providing better value for money and enhancing the performance and commitment to service delivery.

A new scrutiny committee structure was agreed by full Council on 25th February 2019 for implementation from the start of the 2019/20 Council year. As part of that process the former Scrutiny Management Board reviewed the existing scrutiny work programme and resolved:

“that the Head of Strategic Support be asked to ensure that committees under the new scrutiny committee structure are asked to review their work programmes at their first meetings, and are provided with appropriate guidance to assist that, so that any items which no longer warrant scrutiny are removed and any items requiring scrutiny are added” (minute 43.2 2018/19 refers).

As set out in item 5 on the agenda for this meeting the terms of reference of the Scrutiny Commission include having overall responsibility for the scrutiny work programme.

The Commission is therefore asked to undertake this review exercise for the whole of the scrutiny work programme.

The current scrutiny work programme, as it stood at the time of the publication of this agenda, is attached as Appendix 1. To assist the Commission, items which relate solely to administrative tasks are shaded in grey and items for scrutiny are left unshaded. The Commission is asked to focus on the unshaded items.

The next item on the agenda deal with the Commission's own work programme.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

Any decisions taken by the Board during the meeting will be reflected in an updated work programme for each of the three directorate-based committees that will be submitted to the first meeting of each of those committees.

The Commission will continue to oversee the whole scrutiny work programme which contains the work of the three directorate-based committees and any scrutiny panels that the Commission has established. The Commission may add or remove items from the work programme in performing this role. As part of that process it may also receive proposals from the other three scrutiny committees regarding items for the scrutiny work programme, for example suggestions for new task and finish scrutiny panels and suggestions from one committee for an item to be included in the work programme for another.

The Commission is also asked to consider whether to establish a new scrutiny panel to consider the issue of meeting the affordable housing need in the Borough. A proposed scope document for that panel has been prepared and is attached at Appendix 2.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Work Programme

Appendix 2 – Proposed Scrutiny Scope Document – Meeting the Affordable Housing Need in the Borough

Background Papers: None

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