

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21 MARCH 2017**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

20

TITLE OF REPORT: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY OFFICER

1. SUMMARY

1.1 The Committee's work programme for 2017/18.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to consider its work programme for 2017/18.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To enable the Committee to plan its work effectively.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None.

5. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

5.1 None.

6. FORWARD PLAN

6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee's Input into Policy Making

7.1 At its meeting in January, the Committee considered that it needed earlier sight of issues so it could have a meaningful input into policy development and decisions. Rather than receive a general briefing from Executive Members, it would focus on particular topics and invite the relevant Cabinet member and officer to attend.

7.2 At the Committee's request, the Chairman of the Committee and the Scrutiny Officer met the Executive Member for Policy, Transport and Green Issues, Cllr Cunningham, to discuss ways for the Committee to better influence policy making in the future. The Scrutiny Officer will update the Committee on the outcome at the meeting.

Programme for 2017/18

7.3 The Committee is asked to consider its priorities and how it might operate next year. No programme has been prepared until the Committee has decided how it wishes to approach next year's meetings.

7.4 The latest version of the Forward Plan is at **Appendix A**. The Chairman will consider whether any subsequent additions should be seen by the Committee at its next meeting.

8. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS (TFGs)

8.1 The TFG on the Council's Approach to Managing Larger Projects completed its review on 27 February. The report is being prepared and will be considered by this Committee and Cabinet in June.

Future Task and Finish Group Programme

8.2 In January, members prioritised the following topics:

- a) Consultation;
- b) Impact of the Grants Policy Review;
- c) Section 106 Funding.

8.3 The Committee decided that the following topics should be kept in reserve:

- d) The Urban/Rural Divide;
- e) The value for money of NHDC's Document Centre;
- f) Balancing cost savings against possible environmental impacts.

8.4 The Committee has agreed to review the Hitchin Town Hall and Museum project once it has finished

8.5 The Committee asked for further work on the Council's management of risk and any crossover with the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. This will follow at a future meeting.

8.6 The Committee has already agreed to move to fixed dates for TFGs. Given election priorities, the first of these will be in **June 2017** with **consultation** the first topic.

TFG Protocol

8.7 The Committee revised its Protocol for TFGs in March 2016 and it is timely to review its first year of operation. This will be addressed in the Annual Report item elsewhere on this agenda.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None.

10. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None.

11. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The Equality Act 2010 came into force on the 1 October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a new Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on the 5 April 2011. There is a general duty, described below, that public bodies must meet, and this is underpinned by more specific duties which are designed to help meet them.

12.2 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of its functions: give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

12.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no social value implications arising from this report.

14. APPENDICES

14.1 Appendix A – Forward Plan for 3 March 2017

15. CONTACT OFFICERS

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16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 None