

Committee: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 18th March 2015

Agenda item: 8

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2015/16 – Topic Suggestions

Lead officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services

Lead member: Councillor Russell Makin, Chair of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

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Recommendations:

- A. That Members of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel give consideration to the issues and items they may wish to scrutinise as part of their 2015/16 work programme.
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 At the beginning of each municipal year, each Overview and Scrutiny body determines the issues it wishes to build into its work programme for the forthcoming year. The Overview and Scrutiny bodies have specific roles relating to budget and business plan scrutiny and performance monitoring, and these should automatically be built into the work programme.
- 1.2 In addition to this, Overview and Scrutiny bodies may choose to build a work programme which involves scrutinising a range of issues through a combination of pre-decision scrutiny items, policy development reviews carried out by task groups, performance monitoring, ongoing monitoring items and follow up to previous scrutiny work. Any call-in work will be programmed into the provisional call-in dates identified in the corporate calendar as required.
- 1.3 Given that each Overview and Scrutiny body has six scheduled meetings over the course of 2015/16 (representing a maximum of 18 hours of scrutiny per year), the key challenge for scrutiny Members is how they can reconcile the competing demands of the range of issues they could choose to (or are required to) scrutinise against the time available.
- 1.4 The remit of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel is as follows:

- housing, including housing need, affordable housing and private sector housing
- environmental sustainability, including energy, waste management, parks & open spaces and the built environment
- culture, including tourism, museums, arts, sports & leisure
- enterprise and skills, including regeneration, employment, adult education & libraries
- transport

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1 N/A

3. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

3.1 To assist Members to identify and prioritise a work programme for 2015/16, the Scrutiny Team will undertake a consultation programme with Panel Members, Co-optees, members of the public, LB Merton Officers, Local Area Agreement partners (Merton LSP) and Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to determine other issues/items for Members consideration for inclusion in the Panels 2015/16 work programme.

4. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are none specific to this report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the financial, resource and property issues relating to the topic being scrutinised. Furthermore, scrutiny work will also need to assess the implications of any recommendations made to Cabinet, including specific financial, resource and property implications.

5. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Scrutiny work involves consideration of the legal and statutory issues relating to the topic being scrutinised. Furthermore, scrutiny work will also need to assess the implications of any recommendations made to Cabinet, including specific legal and statutory implications.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

6.1 It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engagement. The reviews will involve work to consult local residents, community and voluntary sector groups, businesses, hard to reach groups, etc and the views gathered will be fed into the review.

6.2 Scrutiny work involves consideration of the human rights, equalities and community cohesion issues relating to the topic being scrutinised. Furthermore, scrutiny work will also need to assess the implications of any recommendations made to Cabinet, including specific human rights, equalities and community cohesion implications.

7. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Scrutiny work involves consideration of the crime and disorder issues relating to the topic being scrutinised.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are none specific to this report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the risk management and health and safety issues relating to the topic being scrutinised. Furthermore, scrutiny work will also need to assess the implications of any recommendations made to Cabinet, including specific risk management and health and safety implications.

9. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

9.1 There are no appendices to this report.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 No background papers were used in the production of this report.

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