

Meeting: Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee**Date: 27 June 2017****Title: Work Programme 2017/18**

Author: Yvonne Harrison, Democratic Services Tel: 0191 643 5320**Service: Law and Governance****Wards affected: All**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1** To inform Members of the topics received for potential inclusion in the 2017/18 Culture and Leisure Sub-committee work programme, to set-out the work programme process to date and the next steps for finalising the topics to be included.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** The sub-committee is recommended to agree the work programme items that have been evaluated and prioritised so far and identify any further topics relevant to the remit of the sub-committee that could be included in the 2017/18 work programme.

3. Details

- 3.1** The process of establishing the 2017/18 overview and scrutiny work programme began in February 2017 with an email to all Members and Tier 1, 2 and 3 managers, seeking ideas for topics scrutiny could usefully look at. It was explained with this request that, as in previous years, the focus of overview and scrutiny would be on contributing to policy development.
- 3.2** The Senior Leadership Team discussed the work programme at a meeting in March 2017, helping to identify some key policy areas for scrutiny to focus on. The work programme process and suggestions received to date was also discussed at a meeting of scrutiny chairs and deputies in March 2017.
- 3.3** In addition to asking senior staff and Members to put forward ideas, an article was also placed in the residents' magazine inviting members of the public to raise any issue that they thought would be suitable for scrutiny to investigate. As a result a number of suggestions of scrutiny topics were made in the case of the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee and each of the scrutiny sub-committee, including the carry over of the Culture and Leisure sub-committee's 'Cultural Development Plan' investigation into how the Council can deliver an effective cultural offer in a shrinking financial environment.
- 3.4** In order to ensure that the topics selected will deliver the greatest value in terms of policy development, relevant officers have done some preliminary work to scope and evaluate

the topics that have been received. A full list of the suggestions received relevant to Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee is attached at Appendix A. These could be split into topics that would constitute an in-depth investigation (to be undertaken by a sub-group) and monitoring reports that could be dealt with during committee meetings.

- 3.5** In determining which topics should be prioritised for in-depth investigation, the following criteria have been considered:
- Is it timely?
 - Will it duplicate any other work ongoing within the Council or the NECA scrutiny work programme?
 - Will it add value/contribute to policy development?

- 3.6** As has been the practice in previous years, it is recommended that sub-groups (of around 4/5 members) be established to carry out the topics that have been selected for in-depth investigation. These sub-groups operate in a more informal way and can consult with a wide range of witnesses in various settings, often over a shorter period of time. When dealing with a specific topic, this focused way of working is often more productive than trying to achieve the same in a formal committee setting. Whilst more than one topic can be prioritised across the municipal year, only one sub-group per committee/sub-committee can be established at any one time due to resourcing restraints.

- 3.7** If there are several in-depth investigation topics identified by a committee/sub-committee that are unlikely to be completed within the municipal year, these can be carried forward to the next municipal year, providing they would still be timely to consider at that time.

- 3.8** During the meeting, Members will have the opportunity to raise any other topics relevant to the remit of the sub-committee that they think should be included in the work programme. Additional topics raised will be scheduled accordingly in consultation with the Chair and the Deputy Chair.

4. Appendices

Appendix A - 2017/18 work programme suggestions for Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee.

5. Background Information

Notes of the Chair and Deputy Chairs meeting in March 2016.

Notes of the SLT discussion on the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year.