

Meeting: Environment Sub Committee

Date: 9 July 2014

Title: Work Programme 2014-15

Author: Dave Parkin Tel: 0191 643 5316

Service: Governance Services

Directorate: Law and Governance

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to allow the Sub Committee to consider and agree its work programme for the 2014/15 municipal year.

2. Recommendations

The sub-committee is asked to:

- 1) Consider the suggested topics for inclusion in the work programme for 2014/15 and agree the areas the Sub-committee would like to prioritise;
- 2) Consider the information and suggested topics for in-depth investigation contained within the report; and
- 3) Of the suggested topics, prioritise one topic to focus on and identify an appropriate method for carrying out this work.

3. Details

Background

- 3.1 The Scrutiny chairs and deputy chairs met on 11 March 2014 to consider the overview and scrutiny work programme for the 2014/15 municipal year. At this meeting it was agreed that Overview and Scrutiny should continue to focus on policy development work.
- 3.2 The chairs and deputy chairs considered a list of potential in-depth scrutiny topics that had arisen from a range of sources, including scrutiny chairs and members, Cabinet members and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), and a long list of priority topics was agreed. The Environment Sub-committee is asked to review the topics from this list that fall within its remit with a view to agreeing a work programme for 2014/15. Once all the sub-committees have undertaken this exercise, the priority areas selected will be reported to the Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee.

- 3.3 From the topics considered the following priorities were identified that fall within the remit of the Sub Committee:
- Development of a borough wide Car Parking Policy;
 - Development of a Cycling Strategy;
 - Development of a Waste Strategy post 2017.
 - Public Rights of Way
- 3.4 The Environment Sub Committee is requested to consider the suggested topics above and agree to undertake these in-depth investigations, with a view to contributing to the development of policy in these areas.
- 3.5 It has been recognised that undertaking in-depth studies is often easier to achieve outside the formal committee setting and Members could consider setting up a sub-group or study group to undertake some research before reporting back to the sub-committee where this might be appropriate. Due to resource implications, only one scrutiny review should be undertaken at any one time.
- 3.6 In addition to undertaking in-depth studies into priority policy areas, the Sub-committee will consider the following items of business throughout the year:
- The Newcastle and North Tyneside Biodiversity Action Plan – Annual review
 - The North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership – Update report
 - Monitoring the outcomes of previous Sub-committee and study group Reports