

Meeting: Environment Sub-committee

Date: 8 July 2015

Title: Work Programme 2015-16

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Service: Law & 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 2015/16 municipal year.

2. Recommendation

The sub-committee is requested to consider the suggested topics for inclusion in the work programme for 2015/16 and agree the areas the sub-committee would like to prioritise.

3. Details

- 3.1 The sub-committee at its meeting held on 3 June 2015 considered its work programme for the 2015/16 municipal year. At the meeting it was agreed that consideration of the work programme be deferred to allow members and the appropriate cabinet members to submit suggestions for topics to be considered for inclusion in the work programme.
- 3.2 Following that meeting the Cabinet Member and all members of the sub-committee were invited to submit suggestions for inclusion in the sub-committee's work programme. The suggested topics received are listed below:
 - How the Council is performing in regards meeting its carbon reduction targets and what plans for the future to enhance the work already being done. What can we do locally to help meet our targets and become even greener?
 - An annual review of the Carbon Reduction Programme and progress over the last few years.
 - Council's recycling strategy, including both public recycling collection and other sources of recycling.
 - The potential for cost and carbon savings in the design and maintenance of the Council's grounds.

- An annual review of the Bio-diversity Action Plan and progress over the last few years.
 - An annual review of the Council's Tree Policy and progress over the last few years.
 - An annual review of "Friends Of" establishment and their achievements over the last few years.
 - An annual review of the Waste Management Contract and progress in waste reduction, waste reuse, waste recycling and waste disposal methods over the last few years.
- 3.3 In addition to the above the sub-committee has a number of studies which it commenced in the 2014/15 municipal year and it is suggested that these studies be completed prior to undertaking any additional works. The outstanding topics are:
- The waste collection policy post 2017. This study was being undertaken by the full sub-committee at its regular meetings and there is a presentation on the current position is on the agenda for this meeting;
 - The review of the tree management policy. This study is being undertaken by the full sub-committee at its regular meetings; and
 - A review of the North Tyneside Cycling Strategy. This study is being undertaken by a sub group of the sub-committee
- 3.4 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 committee where this might be appropriate. It should be understood that only one scrutiny review should be undertaken by each sub-committee at any one time.
- 3.5 In addition to undertaking in-depth studies into priority policy areas, the sub-committee will consider the following items of business throughout the year:
- Newcastle and North Tyneside Biodiversity Action Plan – Annual Report;
 - North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership – Quarterly report;
 - Monitoring the action plan in respect of the recommendations of previous studies submitted to Cabinet; and
 - Approval of reports from study groups as appropriate