

**Meeting:** Housing Sub-committee

**Date:** 26 June 2017

**Title:** Work Programme 2017/18

---

**Author:** Emma Fagan, Democratic Services Tel: 643 5313

**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 Housing Sub-committee work programme.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The sub-committee is recommended to agree the work programme suggestions detailed in Appendix A 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 Elected 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 A press release was issued on 7 February 2017 seeking the views of members of the public as to what services would be important for scrutiny to focus on. An article was also placed on the Authority web site and communication platforms inviting members of the public to raise issues that they thought would be suitable for scrutiny to investigate.
- 3.3 The Senior Leadership Team also discussed the work programme and identified key policy areas for scrutiny to focus on. The work programme process and suggestions received to date were also discussed at a meeting of scrutiny chairs and deputy chairs.
- 3.4 At the meeting of the sub-committee on 26 June, Members of the sub-committee will be invited to put forward any topic suggestions that they have for inclusion in the work programme. The remit of Housing sub-committee is to look at all aspects of housing and community safety.
- 3.5 A list of topic suggestions received so far is appended to this report.
- 3.6 These suggested topics, along with ideas raised by members of the sub-committee, will be scheduled accordingly across the year, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair and relevant officers.

- 3.7 As has been practice in previous years, it is recommended that sub groups (of around 4/5 members) be established to carry out the scrutiny of 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.
- 3.8 In determining if any topics should be selected for in-depth investigation, the following criteria should be considered when prioritising:
- Is it timely?
  - Will it duplicate any other work ongoing within the Council or the North East Combined Authority scrutiny work programme?
  - Will it add value/contribute to policy development?

#### **4. Appendices**

- Appendix A – topic suggestions for Housing sub-committee

## **Housing sub-committee – work programme suggestions 2017/18**

**Homelessness** – to look at the extent of homelessness in the borough, particularly the number of people sleeping rough and whether this is on the increase. To also consider whether homeless people have the appropriate access to relevant mental health support and services (scheduled for July 2017).

**Homelessness Reduction Act** – to consider the implications for the bill and how the authority will implement the incoming changes (scheduled for July 2017).

**Kier** – to consider latest performance information relating to housing repairs and housing investment delivered through Kier North Tyneside (scheduled for January 2018).

**Universal Credit** – to consider the communication strategy in place ahead of the full roll out of Universal Credit in North Tyneside in February 2018 (scheduled for July 2017).

**Sustainable Tenancies** – to consider the impact of initiatives put in place to support tenants in successfully continuing with their tenancies (scheduled for June 2017).