

Meeting: Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

Date: 25 May 2017

Title: Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2017-18

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Service: Law & Governance

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to inform the Committee to its work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to note the work programme for 2017/18.

3. Details

Background

- 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 topics for scrutiny. 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.
- 3.3 The Senior Leadership Team also discussed the work programme and were looking to identify 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.
- 3.4 In addition to asking senior staff and Members to put forward ideas, 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.
- 3.5 As has been 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. The 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.

- 3.6 At its meeting of the Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 10 January 2017 the Committee agreed that the next in-depth review to be undertaken would be in relation to the Capita Partnership, with an alternative measure to be taken to ensure the ICT Delivery topic would be also reviewed.

Whilst more than one topic can be prioritised across the municipal year, only one sub-group should be established at any one time due to resourcing constraints, however, through discussion with the Head of Law & Governance further resource has been allocated to ensure the following can be undertaken.

- **Capita Partnership**

The purpose of this study will be to understand and review how the contract with the Authority partner Capita has operated since its inception. A sub-group has been established and all non-executive Members of the Council were invited to be part. Seven Members volunteered and a scoping meeting took place on 10 May.

- **ICT delivery**

To review the delivery of the Authority's ICT strategy and the current ICT performance, with the understanding that the Target Operating Model and the delivery of the Creating a Brighter Future Programme, delivery is centred around having the necessary IT systems that are relevant, reliable and efficient in their use.

A sub-group will be established where again all non-executive Members will be invited to be part.

- 3.7 Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee are requested to note the agreed topics that will be undertaken with the understanding that no further in-depth work should be carried out until already agreed work are completed.

- 3.4 In addition to undertaking in-depth studies into priority policy areas, Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee will consider the following items of business throughout the year:

- Our North Tyneside bi-annual performance reports
- Creating a Brighter Future quarterly updates on the delivery of the Programme
- Mayor's Annual Report setting out the Cabinet's priorities for the coming year
- Plans/strategies that fall within the Budget and Policy Framework
- Approval of reports from sub-committees/study groups
- Overview, Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee - Annual report

4. Appendices (if any)

None