

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider and agree a work programme for the Committee for the municipal year 2016/17.

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme is designed to set out the key issues to be addressed by the Committee during the year and provide it with a timetable of work. The Committee itself is responsible for setting its own work programme, and also has a coordinating role in relation to the three thematic Committees.
- 2.2 To be most effective, the work programme should provide a basis and framework for the work of the Committee, while retaining sufficient flexibility to respond to any important issues that emerge during the course of the year. The work programme is therefore intended to be a working document that the Committee can develop and refer to throughout the year.
- 2.3 In order to ensure that the Committee is able to undertake all of its business and respond to emerging issues, there will be scope for additional meetings or visits not detailed in the work programme.
- 2.4 The remit of the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee covers the following:-
- To review and scrutinise the functions of the Council relating in particular to the budget, corporate plan, external assessments, performance monitoring, quality standards and value for money, property and facilities management, information technology, organisational development, workforce strategy, governance, customer service and communications. To act as the designated scrutiny committee for statutory purposes for crime and disorder and flood risk.*
- 2.5 The work programme should reflect the remit of the Committee and the need to balance its responsibility for undertaking scrutiny, performance management and policy review (where necessary). In accordance with the recent independent review of the scrutiny function there will be an increasing emphasis on accountability and performance management in the composition of the work programme for the year ahead.
- 2.6 The work programme should also reflect and be aligned to the key priorities of the Council as set out in documents such as the Sunderland Strategy and the Corporate Plan, reflect issues highlighted following external assessments and issues raised during the Annual Scrutiny Debate.

3. Draft Work Programme 2016/17

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider the issues it wishes to consider for the year ahead. A draft Committee Work Programme based on some of the key issues facing the Council and raised during the Scrutiny Debate is attached marked Appendix 1. This will hopefully provide a useful framework for developing the work programme for the year.
- 3.2 During the year the Committee will have the opportunity to review service performance and will be involved in key strategic policy documents. These will be included in the work programme when timescales become available.
- 3.3 The Committee also has a coordinating role to avoid duplication, make best use of resources and to provide a corporate overview of the scrutiny function. As such the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee will also receive, on a monthly basis, the work programmes of the three thematic Scrutiny Committees.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 That the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee consider and agrees the draft Annual Scrutiny Work Programme for 2016/17 and incorporates emerging issues as and when they arise throughout the forthcoming year;
- 4.2 That the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee considers and notes the work programmes of the three thematic Scrutiny Committees.

5. Background Papers

- 5.1 Scrutiny Agendas and Minutes

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