

Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2024/25



Report to: Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9 July 2024

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Executive Summary

A This report explains the process followed so the Committee can decide its work plan.

Recommended that the Committee:

A Notes the draft work plan attached as Appendix A to the report.

B Agrees to set up two task and finish groups:

- i) Playhouse Arts and Cultural Quarter
- ii) Climate

C Notes the draft terms of reference for the groups (attached as Appendix B to the report) and agrees to seek membership from the committee and the wider membership.

Reason for decision

A To make sure the Committee has a deliverable work plan for the 2024/25 council year.

Other Options

A None.

Background

1. The Committee is responsible for setting its own work plan. It agrees an initial work plan at its July meeting.
2. Before the meeting, all Councillors are asked to submit potential topics using a submission form. One topic, on the Playhouse Arts and Cultural Quarter, was submitted.
3. Officers have met with the Chair and Vice Chair to discuss other potential items and ways of improving how the Committee works.

Issues/Proposals

4. A draft work plan is attached as Appendix A to the report
5. The structure of scrutiny can be improved by having task and finish groups look at specific issues in more detail. It is recommended that the following task and finish groups are set up for 2024/25:
 - a) Playhouse Arts and Cultural Quarter; and
 - b) Climate.
6. Draft terms of reference are attached as Appendix B, as part of the submission documents. The groups will revise their final terms of references at their first meetings before final approval by the Committee. The Committee must decide the membership of the groups. Any Councillor, unless they are on the Cabinet, can be a member of the task and finish groups. They will report back to the Committee at each meeting.
7. It is recommended that budget and performance monitoring become regular items on the Committee's agendas, to provide Councillors with more time to consider them. This will work together with the new way these issues are reported to Cabinet.
8. The February Committee meeting will be dedicated to the budget. Again, this will allow Councillors to consider the budget more closely than before.
9. The October committee meeting will focus on external scrutiny. This year, it is recommended that the Committee considers policing and health. All Councillors will be invited to this meeting.
10. The debt write offs and council tax support scheme items will allow the Committee to look at reports before they are considered by Cabinet.
11. There are three further items on Housing Services, HGGT and HTS. The scope of these will be agreed after this meeting and will mean that the Committee can look at major areas of the council's work

12. The draft work plan allows the Committee to look at topics that relate to all the council's missions within its Corporate Plan, on matters where it can add value to the council's work.

Implications

Equalities and Diversity

None at this stage.

Climate Change

None.

Finance

None specific.

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Governance

This report is for noting. The creation of task and finish groups fall within the scheme of delegation for scrutiny committee.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Scrutiny Committee Work Plan

Appendix B – Task and Finish Group Terms of Reference

Background Papers

None

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

None