

Title of meeting:	Scrutiny Management Panel
Date of meeting:	16 January 2023
Subject:	Themed Scrutiny Panel Updates & Scrutiny Work Programme
Report by:	Senior Local Democracy Officer
Wards affected:	N/A
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To update the Scrutiny Management Panel on the work of the themed scrutiny panels, receive suggestions for topics to include within the council's scrutiny work programme and agree the resulting updated scrutiny work programme.
- 1.2 To present the Scrutiny Management Panel with suggested revised templates for the themed scrutiny panel work programme (Appendix 1) and scoping document (Appendix 2), along with a flow chart for filtering potential topics for inclusion within the scrutiny work programme (Appendix 3).

2. Recommendations

- (i) That any updates received from the themed scrutiny panel chairs at the meeting be NOTED;
- (ii) the updated work programme template, scoping document template and topic filtering flow chart be adopted; and
- (iii) the council's scrutiny work programme for the themed scrutiny panels be populated and updated as appropriate with any topics agreed at the meeting by the Scrutiny Management Panel.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Management Panel has a role to oversee the development of the scrutiny function and have overall responsibility for setting and monitoring standards for scrutiny.
- 3.2 Further, in respect of the scrutiny work programme, the Scrutiny Management Panel has overall management responsibility for the work programmes of the themed scrutiny panels including:

- Identification of topics that could be the subject of scrutiny enquiries in consultation with themed panels, partners and the public in order to prioritise and manage workloads and ensure that review topics are chosen that reflect the city's priorities and are focused on improvement.
- outputs from themed scrutiny panels
- monitoring of implementation of recommendations arising from completed scrutiny review

3.3 In order to aid the selection of topics which add the most value, a simple flow chart of criteria has been drafted for the panels consideration. The selection criteria have been drafted in accordance with the Local Government Association's publication 'A councillors' workbook on scrutiny' and also accords with guidance from the Centre for Governance & Scrutiny.

3.4 The proposed updated scoping document is based upon the existing document but incorporating some additions from the 'model' scoping document drafted by the Centre for Governance & Scrutiny (at the time operating under its previous name of Centre for Public Scrutiny).

3.5 Updates from the themed scrutiny panels:

Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel

3.6 The outstanding topic of 'Engagement with Culture and Leisure - widening social participation in Portsmouth' commenced on 20 January 2020. At this meeting the scoping document was agreed (Appendix 4) and witnesses present were Stephen Baily, Director of Culture, Leisure & Regulatory Services, Claire Looney, Partnership and Commissioning Manager and James Daly D-Day Collections Researcher and Projects Officer. Adrienne Pye, Senior Consultant from the Audience Agency was also present.

A second meeting was held on 25 February 2020 in Southsea Library where the panel received a presentation from Lindy Elliott, Library and Archive Services Manager.

The panel met informally on 29 December 2022 to discuss how best to proceed with the topic and agreed that three meetings be arranged by mid-February 2023 to speak with witnesses.

Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

3.7 The outstanding topic of 'Review into support for children with disabilities' commenced on 17 June 2019. At this meeting the scoping document was agreed (Appendix 5) and subsequent meetings were held on 16 September

2019 and 30 January 2020. In addition, members of the panel attended a Portsmouth Parent Voice coffee morning to gather evidence.

Housing and Social Care Scrutiny Panel

- 3.8 The panel has a topic of 'Review into the provision of breaks/respite for informal carers, particularly those who care for someone with dementia.' A draft scoping document is attached (Appendix 6). The panel met on 23 September 2022 to agree the topic as a matter that it wished to scrutinise and the associated scoping document.
- 3.9 The Chair attended the Carers Count event on 24 November 2022 to talk to informal carers about their experiences. One of the sessions was on breaks for carers so the feedback from carers was relevant to the review, particularly regarding overnight respite where there are gaps in provision. The next steps are for the panel to attend a regular meeting of local groups for people who care for people with dementia to further inform possible conclusions and recommendations.

Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel

- 3.10 The panel has a suggestion for a topic of 'Phasing out of Pesticides and Weedkillers in Portsmouth'. This arose out of a notice of motion agreed by Council in July 2022 which asked Cabinet, utilising the Transport, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel as appropriate, to commission trials of a wide range of non-chemical and mechanical alternatives for weed treatment and management and to request council officers report back the findings within six months.
- 3.11 The panel will meet informally with officers on 10 January 2023 to discuss the topic and the Chair will be able to update verbally on this at the meeting.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 The recommendations within this report have been drafted with the aim of supporting the Scrutiny Management Panel and the themed scrutiny panels in undertaking their respective roles.

5. Integrated impact assessment

- 5.1 This report does not require an Integrated Impact Assessment as there are no proposed changes to PCC's services, policies, or procedures included within the recommendations.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 There are no legal comments, the scope of the proposals is well with the remit of scrutiny and reflective of evidencing focussed and relevant overview.

7. Director of Finance's comments

- 7.1 There are no finance implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Any subsequent reports to cabinet following scrutiny reviews will be reviewed and comment provided separately.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Themed scrutiny panel work programme template

Appendix 2 - Draft scoping document template

Appendix 3 - Topic filtering flow chart

Appendix 4 - EDCL scoping document 'Engagement with Culture and Leisure - widening social participation in Portsmouth'

Appendix 5 - ECYP scoping document 'Review into support for children with disabilities'

Appendix 6 - HSC scoping document 'Review into the provision of breaks/respite for informal carers, particularly those who care for someone with dementia.'