

Title of meeting: Scrutiny Management Panel

Date of meeting: 26 July 2023

Subject: 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.

2. Recommendations

- (i) That any updates received from the themed scrutiny panel chairs at the meeting be NOTED; and
- (ii) 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 Updates from the themed scrutiny panels:

Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel

- 3.4 The report and recommendations in respect of the review into engagement with culture and leisure - widening social participation in Portsmouth were approved by Cabinet on 27 June 2023.

The panel met on 1 June 2023 to endorse the above report to Cabinet and to start considering future topics for the current municipal year.

The panel is due to meet on 20 July 2023 to agree future topics and these will be reported verbally at the meeting.

Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

- 3.5 The report and recommendations in respect of the review into school attendance with a focus on transitional Years 6 to 7 were considered by Cabinet on 27 June 2023 and the recommendations which could be agreed within budget were approved.

At a meeting held on 13 July 2023, the panel agreed to submit the following topic for inclusion into the council's scrutiny work programme for 2023/24:

- A review into education, employment and training opportunities for our care experienced young adults.

Housing and Social Care Scrutiny Panel

- 3.6 The report and recommendations in respect of the review of the provision of breaks/respite for carers, particularly those who care for someone with Dementia were approved by Cabinet on 27 June 2023.

At a meeting held on 13 July, the panel agreed to submit the following topic for inclusion into the council's scrutiny work programme for 2023/24:

- Review into the response of the Local Authority and Landlords in the city to the issue of damp and mould in social housing and private rented housing

Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel

3.7 The panel is continuing the topic of 'Reducing the Use of Pesticides on Council Land.' agreed by the Scrutiny Management Panel on 16 January 2023. The panel met on 13 March, 8 June and 13 July (with a meeting also scheduled for 25 July) to gather evidence and has agreed a site visit and a programme of meeting dates to conclude the review by November 2023.

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 in this report.

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 draft work programme

Appendix 2 - Scrutiny topic selection flow chart (agreed by Scrutiny Management Panel on 16 January 2023)