

Title of meeting: Scrutiny Management Panel

Date of meeting: 22 July 2024

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 the updates contained within this report and any 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; and

- Monitoring the implementation of recommendations arising from completed scrutiny reviews.

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 of the Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy focussing on High Street direction were considered by Cabinet on 25 June 2024.
- 3.5 The panel met on 27 June 2024 to start considering potential topics and will meet again on 18 July 2024 to agree on topics to put forward for the 2024/25 scrutiny work programme. Updates from this meeting will be presented at the Scrutiny Management Panel meeting.

Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

- 3.6 The report and recommendations in respect of the review into education, employment and training opportunities for our care experienced young adults aged 18-25 years were considered by Cabinet on 25 June 2024.
- 3.7 The panel has met informally to discuss topics and wishes to put forward the following for inclusion in the 2024-2025 Scrutiny Work Programme:
- Work experience opportunities for young adults within PCC.** This would support the council's work to support young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), at risk of NEET, youth offenders, care experienced young people, and young people with An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Young people would benefit from a strong corporate approach to work experience within the Council and this would support work already being done within the Council.
 - Elective Home Education (EHE).** Numbers have been growing steadily over the last two years. Robust measures are in place but there are concerns about capacity and the reasons behind parents de-registering their child. Likely to be undertaken in one meeting to revisit the review undertaken in 2018, which included information about the Portsmouth EHE protocol.
 - Online Safety for children.** Invite the youth parliament to give their views and also Hampshire Constabulary to consider the work that they are undertaking in respect of improving online safety. The remit to include the approaches of schools, the identification and promotion of best practices, the identification of any current weakness and what more could be done to help protect children online.
 - Alternative Provision** and how hard to place pupils are placed through the Fair Access Protocol.

- 3.8 The panel will meet again to discuss the scope of topic suggestion (i) on Thursday 11 July 2024. Any further updates from this meeting will be presented at the Scrutiny Management Panel meeting.

Housing and Social Care Scrutiny Panel

- 3.9 The report and recommendations in respect of the review into the response of the Local Authority and Landlords in the city to the issue of damp and mould in social housing and in the private rented housing were considered by Cabinet on 25 June 2024.
- 3.10 The panel intends to hold a one-off formal meeting on 13 August 2024 in the format of a Q & A session to discuss the approach to asbestos in local authority owned residential properties. The meeting has been scheduled so that it complements the briefing for the local authority housing asbestos policy report which will flow into the Housing & Tackling Homelessness portfolio decision meeting. The panel are also considering a review with a social care related theme, topic to be agreed.

Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel

- 3.11 The report and recommendations in respect of the review into reducing the use of pesticides on council land were considered by Cabinet on 9 January 2024.
- 3.12 The panel met informally on 28 June 2024 to discuss potential topics and requested that the following be added to the draft work programme:
- (i) Review of environmental anti-social behaviour, with a view to provide recommendations to Cabinet on how improvements can be achieved. This topic arose from a Notice of Motion 'Pride in the Street of Pompey' agreed by Council on 19 March 2024.
 - (ii) Police response times.
 - (iii) Sewage discharges into the sea.

The following reserve topic has also been put forward:

- A review on the council's work to address its statutory duty under 'Prevent'.

- 3.13 The panel will meet again to discuss the scope of the reviews on Friday 12 July 2024. Any further updates from this meeting will be presented at the Scrutiny Management Panel 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 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 2024/25

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