



Telford & Wrekin
C O U N C I L

Addenbrooke House Ironmasters Way Telford TF3 4NT

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date **Wednesday, 7 July 2021** Time **6.00 pm**
Venue **Telford Room, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford TF3 4NT**

Enquiries Regarding this Agenda

Democratic Services	Kieran Robinson	01952 382061
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<u>Committee Membership:</u>	Councillors	E J Carter, G H Cook, T L B Janke, R T Kiernan, R Mehta, B J Thompson and C R Turley (Chair), Co-optees D Johnson
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AGENDA

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| 1. Declarations of Interest | |
| 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting | 3 - 4 |
| 3. Terms of Reference
To approve the Committee's Terms of Reference for the municipal year 2021 to 2022. | To Follow |
| 4. Work Programme 2021/2022
To agree the Committee's work programme for the municipal year 2021 to 2022. | 5 - 8 |
| 5. Neighbourhood Enforcement Activity Review
To receive the report of Dean Sargeant (Director: Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services).

The Cabinet Member for Enforcement, Community Safety and Customer Services will attend for this item. | To Follow |
| 6. Strategic Transport Review (Scene Setting)
To receive the presentation of Dean Sargeant (Director: Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services).

The Cabinet Member for Economy, Housing, Transport and Infrastructure will attend for this item. | To Follow |
| 7. Chair's Update | |

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday, 31 March 2021 at 6.00 pm via Remote Meeting

Present: Councillors E J Carter, T L B Janke, R T Kiernan, B J Thompson and C R Turley (Chair)

In Attendance: Angie Astley (Executive Director: Housing, Communities & Customer Services), Anthea Lowe (Associate Director: Policy & Governance), and Kieran Robinson (Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer)

Apologies: Councillor R Mehta

COMSC12 Declarations of Interest

None.

COMSC13 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2020 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

COMSC14 Work Programme Review

Members received the presentation of the Executive Director: Housing, Communities & Customer Services.

The Committee was informed that officers had met with the Chair and had redrafted the Committee's work programme into a clear programme for the municipal year ahead. The proposal being presented was subject to change as a result of the work programming process that was being carried out; however, the presented programme was considered a starting point for the Committee to add considerable value to the Council's operations.

The revised work programme was separated into two thematic areas – Safer & Stronger Communities and Transport. An additional area, Other, provided scope for the Committee to add further items beyond the two proposed themes. The new thematic areas and the items contained within them were composed of the various issues from the previous work programme that had been delayed as a result of Covid response. Items from the previous iteration of the work programme had been combined into larger, further reaching, that the Committee would be able to add real value to.

Safer & Stronger Communities was a new two-year strategy that was due to launch in April 2021. There was scope for Scrutiny to influence the strategy throughout its two-year span. This thematic area was to include Private Sector Housing, Neighbourhood Enforcement, and the Safer Stronger Communities Strategy.

The second thematic area was Transport. This area was split into four items:

- Strategic Transport Strategy;
- Transport Strategy – Active Travel;
- Transport Strategy – Electric Vehicles; and
- Corporate Travel Plan.

At the time of the presentation, the Other area contained one item – Council Communications. This had been on the previous work programme but had been delayed due to pressures caused by severe flooding and Covid-19. It was proposed that the item be delayed further but retained as an item to scrutinise in future.

A discussion followed the Executive Director’s presentation:

Members expressed their desire that a separate item to scrutinise HMOs be added to the work programme as the area was considered much too complex to reside within the Private Sector Housing item alone. There was broad agreement that HMOs were an important issue in their own right deserving of more detailed scrutiny. It was agreed that this be added as a separate item within the Safer & Stronger Communities theme.

The Committee was also keen to examine Community Action Teams. A discussion around the recruitment of enforcement officers followed and Members agreed that the issue of Community Action Teams should be added as an item within the Safer & Stronger Communities theme.

COMSC15 Chair's Update

The Chair thanked all Scrutiny Members who had taken part in the Local Plan Working Group for their hard work and highlighted the benefits of cross-party working in scrutiny. Members were informed that the Working Group’s report would be received by Cabinet in due course.

The meeting ended at 6.30 pm

Chairman:

Date: Wednesday, 7 July 2021

Communities Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/2022

Issue / Topic	Brief description of topic	Suggested by	Target Date	Service Area	SMT Feedback
Private Sector Housing	To understand the rules that govern social housing provision and private landlords, to understand the needs of residents and problems faced by the borough in delivery of housing and how these can be addressed through the use of enforcement powers. (To include an update on HMO licencing, empty property strategy and action plan, overview and application of enforcement powers in private sector housing)	Carried forward from 2020/21	October 2021	Business, Development & Employment Housing & Communities	
Influence and review the impact of the new Safer/Stronger communities programme	Engaging the Committee in the ongoing development of the Safer and Stronger communities work programme. Expected to be delivered over two parts. This work will include and overview of Safer Streets and the new Safer & Stronger Communities Strategy & Action Plan	Carried forward from 2020/21	June 2021 and February 2021	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	

Communities Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/2022

Transport: Strategic Transport Review	Receive an overview of the Strategic Transport Review that will feed into the new Strategic Transport Strategy	Carried forward from 2020/21	July 2021	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	
Transport Strategy – Active Travel	To contribute to and influence the emerging transport strategy and action plan		June 2021		
Transport Strategy – EV	To contribute to and influence the emerging EV Strategy		April 2022		
Corporate Travel Plan	To contribute to and influence the corporate travel plan		November 2021		
Council Communications	This item has been carried over having been postponed to assist the Council during flood and pandemic response throughout 2020 and early 2021.	Carried forward from 2020/21	2022/23	Corporate Communications	Due to work programme commitments, it is recommended that this item be removed from the work programme
Greener Licensing Taxi					Due to the lack of information available about this item and the planned work programme, it is recommended that this be removed from the work programme.

Communities Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/2022

Needs of rural communities	Are the needs of rural communities being met? Are the communications with them appropriate	New – from Parish Council		Corporate Communications Business, Development & Employment Housing & Communities	It is considered that much of this could be covered as part of the transport related item above, that a line should be added to the transport regarding rural transport then this item be removed from the work programme.
Broadband Connectivity	Telford & Wrekin's role in securing broadband connectivity for all residents Developing ICT for residents to support them living well	New – from Parish Council New – From Co-optee		Business, Development & Employment Housing & Communities	Scrutiny has previously looked at Superfast Telford and Wrekin. Suggested that Scrutiny review the digital strategy later in the year (final quarter or first quarter of 2022).
Planning	Relationship between developers and TWC regarding unadopted development sites. Review of the planning process, both by officers and planning committee.	New – From Parish Council		Planning	This item is related to central government policy and there would be limited scope for scrutiny to influence and/or add value particularly given the recent announcement by government regarding proposed changes to the planning regime.
Post-Covid Recovery	Keeping communities working together following COVID	New – From Co-optee		Housing & Communities	Recommend to postpone until 2022/23

Communities Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/2022

Integration	What can be done to support integration of communities	New – From Co-optee		Housing & Communities	Links to equality and diversity agenda which is integral to the work of the council. Recommended that this is removed from the work programme given the scope of the programme.
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