

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

**COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
3 February 2020**

WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20 AND 2020/21

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR: GOVERNANCE (STATUTORY
MONITORING OFFICER)**

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To enable the Community Scrutiny Committee to consider and agree the Committee’s work programme for 2019/20 and 2020/21.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Committee agree items for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 work programme (Appendix 1); and

2.2 That the Committee agree meeting dates for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 municipal years.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	No	
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	Borough Wide
DELIVERY DATE	The 2019/20 and 2020/21 [two year] work programme should be delivered in-year before the 2021/22 municipal year begins.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	No	There are no direct financial implications foreseen as part of adopting the recommendations contained in this report. However, Scrutiny has a role in ensuring that local government is effective and accountable. This includes undertaking reviews and challenging and monitoring performance. There is provision for the cost of supporting the Scrutiny function in the Council’s budget framework and the

		<p>work programme will need to be managed within those resources, any variance that arises will be reported as appropriate as part of the Council's financial monitoring process.</p> <p>The financial implications of adopting recommendations made by the Scrutiny function should be considered as part of specific reports proposing those recommendations.</p> <p>Scrutiny also plays an important part of the budget consultation process which is reflected in the work programme and is a key piece of work which feeds into the Council's overall budget strategy</p> <p>RP – 8/1/2020</p>
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes/No	<p>Overview & Scrutiny for local authorities was introduced as part of the modernisation of local government in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000. It required every local authority to have at least one O&S committee, to: hold the Executive to account; undertake policy development and review; monitor and improve performance; investigate issues of public concern; and carry out external scrutiny including the NHS.</p> <p>Establishing a work plan, and resources as set out in this report will assist O&S to effectively meet its objectives.</p> <p>AL – 16/1/2020</p>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Borough-wide impact.

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 In order to ensure that the scrutiny function of the Council is effective, it is good practice for each Scrutiny committee to set a work programme

for the municipal year. The work programme suggestions shown in Appendix 1 were considered by the Scrutiny Management Board on 12 November 2019 and referred to the Community Scrutiny Committee to decide which issues should be included in the Committee's Work Programme, subject to scoping. In making decisions about the work programme, the Committee should consider any feedback from both Senior Managers and Scrutiny Management Board and the following "Criteria for Scrutiny":-

- How far scrutiny can realistically change or influence things;
- The extent to which residents or businesses are affected by the issue;
- How well the Council and Partners are performing in the area; and
- What else is happening to avoid duplication or wasted effort.
- The extent to which triangulation of information can take place through the input of service users/frontline providers

1.3 The Committee should, in making decisions about the work programme, also consider the over-arching priorities for scrutiny as set by the Scrutiny Management Board on 12 November 2019:-

- The Environment;
- Housing; and
- Mental Health.

1.4 Scrutiny Management Board has not allocated a baseline for formal meetings during the municipal year for scrutiny of items on the Community Scrutiny Committee's work programme. The Committee should seek to schedule a baseline of four formal meetings during each municipal year covered by the 2019/20 and 2020/21 work programme. This schedule does not include informal or sub-group meetings which may be held to gather evidence as part of a review, briefing meetings or regional/external scrutiny meetings.

1.5 The work programme needs to be flexible to allow for important issues which emerge during the year to be scrutinised. However, if a new topic is added to the work programme, consideration must be given to removing an existing item to avoid the workload becoming unmanageable and losing focus.

2.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 None.

3.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

3.1 Scrutiny Handbook.

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Community Scrutiny Committee – 2019/20 and 2020/21 Work Programme

Key:-

- * New Suggestions Received and Shared with Scrutiny Assembly on 24 October 2019
- ** New Suggestions Received Since Scrutiny Assembly on 24 October 2019

 Ongoing or Monitoring / Annual Item

	Issue / Topic	Purpose	Status / Source if New	Service Area	SMT Feedback (if any)	SMB Feedback (if any)
*	Homelessness and Housing	To understand how and whether the council's historic practice and anticipated plans for future solutions cater for the needs of LGBT Youth, BAME and Disabled populations – what data has been collected? Are policy solutions sensitive to the specific needs of these populations? Are links with services relevant to the causes and outcomes of homelessness strong? What feedback do we have from service users? Are solutions long-term?	New – From Cllr Concepta Cassar	Housing & Communities	*New Director of Housing & Communities to be appointed by 10 th Feb who will then lead on the development and deployment of a number of Housing Strategies including Homelessness. It would be helpful to engage the new Director and therefore helpful if this is an area of scrutiny to do so post June 2020	Homelessness and Housing

	Issue / Topic	Purpose	Status / Source if New	Service Area	SMT Feedback (if any)	SMB Feedback (if any)
**	Social and Private Rented 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.	New – Scrutiny Chair	Housing & Communities	As per above helpful to have the new Director of Housing & Communities to lead post June	Social and Private Rented Housing
*	Council communications with residents and Town and Parish Councils	<i>(NB Scrutiny considered third party engagement in 2018/19)</i>	New – Scrutiny Chairs	Cooperative Council Delivery Team / Neighbourhood & Enforcement Service	*	Council communications with residents and Town and Parish Councils
*	Community Hubs		New – Scrutiny Chairs	Commercial Services	Unclear what is meant by a Community Hub but happy to take a steer	Community Hubs
*	Stronger Community	What do we do as a council and how can we improve? How can we influence with business? How to engage, how to get views, what can be directed through scrutiny to help with this?	New – Scrutiny Chairs		Perhaps needs a clearer brief	Stronger Community

	Issue / Topic	Purpose	Status / Source if New	Service Area	SMT Feedback (if any)	SMB Feedback (if any)
*	Transport (SMB suggest a spotlight review)	To scrutinize bus subsidies which affect Arrivas decisions as to routes and frequencies. TWC should be including on its agendas, reducing isolation, health & well being and access to sport and recreation – it is essential that public transport is available to ensure that these are achievable across the entire Borough. Also, less cars means positive effect on carbon footprint.	New – from Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Council <i>NB Scrutiny of bus subsidies took place in 2015.</i>	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	It may be more productive to work to influence the emerging Integrated Transport Strategy and take a wider view of transport needs and not just focus on bus subsidy. Work on the strategy will commence in the Autumn.	Transport (SMB suggest a spotlight review)
*	Planning and Development	Ensuring that properties have adequate allocated parking spaces. Planning applications must be accurate and include definitive plans and accurate application forms. HMOs need monitoring and enforcement where necessary – parking is an issue wherever there is an HMO. House and property design and specifications must be taking carbon reduction into account through the planning stages.	New – from Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Council	Business, Development & Employment	*	Planning and Development
	Civil Parking Enforcement	Monitoring	Monitoring	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Ideally allow at least 6 months post adoption of the new powers	Civil Parking Enforcement

	Issue / Topic	Purpose	Status / Source if New	Service Area	SMT Feedback (if any)	SMB Feedback (if any)
	Community Safety Partnership (Violence Reduction Partnership scrutiny)	Reviewed 2017-2019 strategy in July 2018.	Statutory responsibility	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services Housing & Communities	A lot of good work has been achieved in partnership with the police to address Violence in our borough particularly county lines and knife crime. Be helpful to raise and scrutinise the work of the partnership.	Community Safety Partnership (Violence Reduction Partnership scrutiny)