

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 OCTOBER 2020

WORK PROGRAMME

Report from: Julie Keith Head of Democratic Services
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Summary

This item advises Members of the current work programme and allows them to adjust it in the light of latest priorities, issues and circumstances. It gives Members the opportunity to shape and direct the Committee's activities over the year.

1. Budget and policy framework
 - 1.1 Under Chapter 4, Part 5 of the Constitution – Overview and Scrutiny Rules, paragraph 21.1 (xv) General terms of reference, each overview and scrutiny committee has the responsibility for setting its own work programme.
2. Background
 - 2.1 Appendix A to this report sets out the existing work programme for this committee.
3. Agenda Planning Meeting
 - 3.1 Members will be aware that Overview and Scrutiny Committees hold agenda planning meetings on a regular basis. These give officers guidance on information Members wish them to provide when scrutinising an issue. An agenda planning meeting was held on 17 September 2020.
 - 3.2 At the pre-agenda meeting the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Spokesperson were updated on the committee's current work programme and advised on the reports to be submitted to this meeting.
 - 3.3 The pre-agenda meeting considered the following:
 - **Placing Objects on the Highway** – The Government has recently introduced new statutory legislation due to COVID-19, covering tables and chairs on the highway, which is in force until September 2021. This is now in place, with a licence fee and the scheme is being run by the

licensing team. It covers the entire network but does not cover any furniture other than tables and chairs and therefore, at present there is no policy nor any permissions for people to have any other furniture out on the highway.

The temporary legislation supersedes anything else but it is intended to review the policy next year and go out to consultation for it to apply to the entire network bringing parity and fairness. The tables and chairs will emulate the current scheme running under the temporary COVID-19 legislation, so will be a continuance. In respect of other street furniture, this will be looked at as part of this review to assess whether it fits in with this policy or should be separate. This will therefore be further considered nearer the time as there will be a need to dovetail any policy into the end of the current legislation in September 2021. Following consideration at the pre-agenda meeting, which included a discussion on some specific current issues, it is suggested that this action be removed from the outstanding list of actions from January 2018.

- **Annual Review of Waste Contracts** – At the pre-agenda meeting it was suggested that this report be programmed for January 2021.
- **Scrutiny of SELEP** – The pre-agenda meeting noted that the Members briefing by SELEP is due to take place in late October (confirmed for 29 October 2020) and therefore suggested that SELEP be invited to RCE O&S Committee for scrutiny when Councillor Rodney Chambers OBE is next held to account in 2021.
- **Update reports on the progress of future development on the Peninsula** – The pre-agenda meeting suggested that this be reported to the Committee in March 2021 and every six months thereafter.
- **Response to the Covid-19 pandemic insofar as it relates to the remit of this Committee** – The Committee is reminded that at its meeting on 2 July 2020, the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended that beginning with the next round of meetings, all the O&S Committees should scrutinise the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic insofar as it relates to their remit. This report was not included on this Committee's agenda in August in recognition that the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Emergency Planning was at that meeting to answer questions. At the recent pre-agenda meeting it was suggested that at the current time, Members receive sufficient briefings and updates on the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic through regular Cabinet reports.

3.4 As agreed at the meeting of this Committee on 13 August 2020, a list of briefing notes relevant to the work of this Committee which have been circulated in 2019 and to date in 2020 are attached at Appendices B and C.

4. Cabinet Forward Plan

- 4.1 The latest Forward Plan of forthcoming Cabinet decisions was published on 21 September 2020. Set out below is a list of items featuring on the Forward Plan that fall within the terms of reference of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee is asked to identify any items it wishes to consider before the Cabinet decision is taken (where dates permit), other than those already programmed in Appendix A.

Title of decision	Anticipated decision date
Draft Capital and Revenue Budgets 2021/2022 - This is on the Committee's work programme for 3 December 2020	17 November 2020
Council Plan Monitoring and Risk Register Review 2020/21 Quarter 2 – This is on the Committee's work programme for 3 December 2020	17 November 2020
Upper Upnor Conservation Area Appraisal	17 November 2020
Local Plan: Authority Monitoring Report	15 December 2020

5. Financial and legal implications

- 5.1 There are no financial or legal implications arising from this report.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to;
- note the current work programme;
 - agree the suggestions from the pre-agenda meeting as set out in paragraph 3.3 of this report and amend the Work Programme accordingly;
 - identify any additional items for inclusion in the work programme.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Work programme
Appendix B – Index of briefing notes 2019
Appendix C – Index of briefing notes 2020

Background papers

None