

Meeting: Housing Sub-committee

Date: 22 July 2019

Title: Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2019/20

Author: Democratic Services

Service: Law and Governance

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to present Members with potential topics for inclusion in the 2019/20 work programme.

2. Recommendations

The Sub-committee is recommended to consider the report and agree a work programme for 2019/20.

3. Details

Background

- 3.1 As part of the process for establishing the 2019-20 Overview and Scrutiny work programme, suggestions have been sought for potential topics that the sub-committee could look at. As in previous years, the focus of overview and scrutiny will be on contributing to policy development.
- 3.2 Ideas received so far have been shared and discussed with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Sub-committee. Members of the sub-committee are invited to put their suggestions forward.

Topics

- 3.3 Following discussions with the Chair and Deputy Chair of Housing Sub-committee and senior officers, the topics below have been identified as possible areas for the Sub-committee to consider over the coming year.

3.4 Topics identified include:

- Sale of Council land
- Feedback from consultation on changes to the Lettings Policy
- Construction Project (with the potential for focusing on specific areas)
- Affordable Homes Project
- Operation of the Trading Company

3.5 During the meeting, members will have the opportunity to raise any others topics relevant to the remit of the Sub-committee for inclusion on the work programme, these topics will be scheduled accordingly in consultation with the Chair and the Deputy Chair of the Sub-committee.

3.6 Members are also asked to prioritise topics for inclusion in the work programme for the year ahead.

3.7 The remit of the sub-committee continues to include the statutory duty to scrutinise crime and disorder matters. In consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the sub-committee, it is intended that this will be carried out via meetings with the Council's Community Safety team and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

In-depth studies

3.8 As has been practice in previous years, the Sub-committee may set up a sub-group (of around 4/5 members) to carry out any topics that have been identified for in-depth investigation. The sub-groups operate in a more informal way and can consult with a wide range of witnesses in various settings, including service users, often over a shorter period of time. When dealing with a specific topic, this focused way of working is often more productive than trying to achieve the same in a formal committee setting.

3.9 There has been one suggestion put forward so far in relation to Housing sub-committee. This is as follows:

Sofa surfing – to look at ways to try and identify the level of hidden homelessness that exists from sofa surfing and how to address the housing need of single applicants, i.e. one bed properties.

3.10 The sub-committee is asked to decide whether it wishes to pursue the establishment of a sub-group into this area and/or to identify any other potential topics for in-depth investigation.

4. Appendices

N/A