

Meeting:	Children and young people scrutiny committee
Meeting date:	16 April 2018
Title of report:	Work programme
Report by:	Governance services

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

Countywide

Purpose and summary

To review the committee's work programme.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) the draft work programme as set out at appendix a to the report be approved, subject to any amendments the committee wishes to make;**
- (b) the committee approves the draft terms of reference in appendix b for a task and finish group concerning section 20 orders and agrees the appointment of a chairman for the group; and**
- (c) the committee notes the recommendation tracker in appendix c.**

Alternative options

- 1 It is for the committee to determine its work programme to reflect the priorities facing Herefordshire. The committee needs to be selective and ensure that the work programme is focused, realistic and deliverable within existing resources.

Reasons for recommendations

- 2 The committee needs to develop a manageable work programme to ensure that scrutiny is focused, effective and produces clear outcomes.

Key considerations

Draft work programme

- 3 The work programme needs to focus on the key issues of concern and be manageable allowing for urgent items or matters that have been called-in.
- 4 Should committee members become aware of any issue they think should be considered by the Committee they are invited to discuss the matter with the Chairman and the statutory scrutiny officer.
- 5 The work programme is a draft document ahead of the annual scrutiny work programme workshop on 4 June. The draft work programme is attached as appendix a .

Constitutional Matters

Task and Finish Groups

- 6 A scrutiny committee may appoint a task and finish group for any scrutiny activity within the committee's agreed work programme. A committee may determine to undertake a task and finish activity itself as a spotlight review where such an activity may be undertaken in a single session; the procedure rules relating to task and finish groups will apply in these circumstances.
- 7 The relevant scrutiny committee will approve the scope of the activity to be undertaken, the membership, chairman, timeframe, desired outcomes and what will not be included in the work. A task and finish group will be composed of a least 2 members of the committee, other councillors (nominees to be sought from group leaders) and may include, as appropriate, co-opted people with specialist knowledge or expertise to support the task. In appointing a chairman of a task and finish group the committee will also determine, having regard to the advice of the council's monitoring officer and statutory scrutiny officer, whether the scope of the activity is such as to attract a special responsibility allowance.
- 8 A task and finish group has been proposed to focus on section 20 orders following the High Court judgement. Terms of reference for a task and finish group are attached at appendix b which the committee is asked to approve and appoint a chairman. The terms of reference include the scope of the activity to be undertaken,

the membership, timeframe, desired outcomes and what will not be included in the work.

- 9 The Committee is asked to determine any matters relating to the appointment of a task and finish group and the chairmanship and any special responsibility allowance or undertaking a spotlight review including co-option (see below).

Co-option

- 10 A scrutiny committee may co-opt a maximum of two non-voting people as and when required, for example for a particular meeting or to join a task and finish group. Any such co-optees will be agreed by the committee having reference to the agreed workplan and/or task and finish group membership.
- 11 The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to exercise this power in respect of any matters in the work programme.

Tracking of recommendations made by the committee

- 12 A schedule of recommendations made in 2017/18 and action in response to date is attached at appendix c.

Forward plan

- 13 The constitution states that scrutiny committees should consider the forward plan as the chief source of information regarding forthcoming key decisions. The current Forward plan is available to Members through the Councillors' handbook intranet site. Forthcoming key decisions are also available to the public under the forthcoming decisions link on the council's website:

<http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mqDelegatedDecisions.aspx?&RP=0&K=0&DM=0&HD=0&DS=1&Next=true&H=1&META=mgforthcomingdecisions&V=1>

Community impact

- 14 The topics selected for scrutiny should have regard to what matters to residents.

Equality duty

- 15 The topics selected need to have regard for equality and human rights issues.

Financial implications

- 16 The costs of the work of the committee will have to be met within existing resources. It should be noted the costs of running scrutiny will be subject to an assessment to support appropriate processes.

Legal implications

- 17 The council is required to deliver an overview and scrutiny function.

Risk management

- 18 There is a reputational risk to the council if the overview and scrutiny function does

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not operate effectively. The arrangements for the development of the work programme should help mitigate this risk.

Consultees

- 19 The work programme is reviewed at every committee meeting and during business planning meetings between the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Director of CWB and Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Work Programme 2018/19

Appendix B – Proposed task and finish group scope – section 20 orders

Appendix C – Recommendations tracker

Background papers

- None identified.