

BRIEFING

	TO:	Improving Places Select Commission
	DATE:	14 July 2020
	LEAD OFFICER:	Katherine Harclerode Governance Advisor 01709 254532
	TITLE:	Improving Places Select Commission Work Programme 2020-21

1. Background

- 1.1** The remit of the Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) is to undertake scrutiny activity in respect of all matters pertaining to the borough of Rotherham as a place. In broad terms, this remit relates to business and economic development, employment, emergency planning, environment, housing, climate change, leisure, culture and tourism, transport and highways, as well as regulatory services such as trading standards and environmental health. The breadth of functions and services that fall within the Commission's remit is significant. The way in which the Commission discharges its scrutiny activity is a matter for itself, having regard to the provisions of the Constitution and any direction from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
- 1.2** Members are required to determine their work programme for the 2020/21 municipal year to give focus and structure to scrutiny activity to ensure that it effectively and efficiently supports and challenges the decision-making processes of the Council, and partner organisations, for the benefit of the people of the borough.
- 1.3** At the previous meeting it was agreed that further work would be undertaken to develop the work programme in order for it to be approved at this meeting. Meetings involving the Chair and relevant senior officers have taken place to better inform the development of the work programme. This paper sets out the proposed work programme in accordance with the resolution of the Commission its June meeting.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1** The work programme needs to address key policy and performance agendas, with a clear emphasis on adding value by leading to improved outcomes for the people of Rotherham. It should also be focused on issues that Scrutiny will be able to influence.
- 2.2** The Work Programme does need to maintain flexibility to accommodate additional or urgent items that may emerge during the year, and, if items are added, this may necessitate a review and re-prioritisation of the Work Programme. Furthermore, the scheduling of items may require some flexibility to take in to account the constraints on the capacity of officers and services currently responding to the active Covid-19 Crisis. As many services are being delivered very differently at present as a result of the pandemic, it also presents an opportunity to reconsider how things might be done in the future, rather than an automatic resumption to former ways.

2.3	With the postponed Whole Council election now scheduled to be held in May 2021, no meetings will be held in April 2021 during the pre-election period. The work of the Commission is therefore going to need to be completed by the meeting planned to be held in March 2021 before a new Council is elected for the 2021-22 municipal year.
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3. Key Actions and Timelines

3.1	The work programmes have been developed following consultation including multiple emails to Members and suggestions sought from relevant Directorate Leadership Teams. The Governance Advisor will continue to liaise on a monthly basis with relevant Directorate Leadership Teams to ensure that agenda items are submitted in a timely fashion for Members to consider matters in accordance with the work programme detailed at Appendix 1.
3.2	A report will be submitted to each meeting providing an update against the progress made and advising of any changes made by the Chair in between meetings. In order to enable this, it is proposed that authority is delegated to the Chair, in consultation with the Governance Advisor, to enable the amendment of or addition(s) to the work programme during the current municipal year.

4. Recommendations

4.1	That approval be given to the work programme for the 2020-21 municipal year set out at Appendix 1
4.2	That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with the Governance Advisor, to amend the work programme in between Commission meetings as required.

**Appendix 1 Outline Work Programme -
Improving Places Select Commission**



Meeting Date	Agenda Items
9 June 2020	Housing Strategy Progress Update
	Initial Work Programme 2020-21
14 July 2020	Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy Update
	Housing Income and Service Charges Update
	Revised Work Programme 2020-21
July/August 2020 Workshop	Housing Maintenance and Repairs
8 September 2020	Town Centre Update
	Dignity, Ltd. Update
20 October 2020	Economic Recovery
	Clean Air Zone
	Highways Maintenance
November 2020 Working Group	MIP Review and Flooding Response
8 December 2020	Allotments Self-Management
	Update on CCTV Review
	Cultural Strategy Implementation
January/February 2021 Working Group	Homes Allocation Process
2 February 2021	Rotherham MBC Code of Practice for Highway Inspection and Assessment
	Council Plan Performance Measures - Exception Reporting
16 March 2021	Transportation - Active Travel, Transforming Cities
	Aids and Adaptations Tenant Scrutiny Review