

**Meeting:** Environment Sub-committee

**Date:** 9 July 2019

**Title:** Work Programme 2019/20

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**Service:** Law and Governance

**Wards affected:** All

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## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To present the Sub-committee with a number of potential topics for inclusion in the 2019/20 work programme and to invite members to identify any additional topics which they consider should be included in the Sub-committee's work programme.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Sub-committee is recommended to agree a work programme and identify any further topics relevant to the remit of the Sub-committee that could be included in the 2019/20 work programme.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 As part of the process for establishing the 2019/20 overview and scrutiny work programme, Members and Senior Officers have been asked to put forward suggestions for possible topics to be considered. As in previous years the focus of overview and scrutiny will be on contributing to policy development.
- 3.2 Senior officers have identified a range of scrutiny activities for the year ahead. These have been shared with and discussed with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Sub-committee. Members of the Sub-committee are also invited to put forward their suggestions for topics that the Sub-committee might wish to consider.

## **4. Topics**

- 4.1 Following discussions with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Environment Sub-committee, the Cabinet Member for Environment and senior officers, the topics below have been identified as possible areas for the Sub-committee to consider over the coming year:
- Waste Strategy including waste collection, flytipping and recycling
  - Environmental Enforcement
  - Air Quality Strategy (including the annual return sent to Defra)
  - Low Carbon Project
  - Water Quality along the coast
  - Climate Change emergency

- 4.2 In order to manage the Sub-committee's work programme effectively members will also receive information reports on various topics. These reports can be used to determine whether there are any specific areas that the Sub-committee would like to consider further.
- 4.3 Members are requested to prioritise the agreed topics to be included in the work programme for the year ahead.
- 4.4 During the meeting members will have the opportunity to raise any other topics relevant to the remit of the Sub-committee for inclusion in the work programme, these topics will be scheduled accordingly in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Sub-committee.

## **5. In-depth Studies**

- 5.1 To ensure that the work programme is effective it is suggested that when evaluating topics for inclusion in the work programme the following criteria should be considered:
- Is it timely?
  - Will it duplicate any other work on-going within the Council or the North of Tyne Combined Authority scrutiny work programme?
  - Will it add value/contribute to policy development?
- 5.2 As has been practice in previous years, it is recommended that sub groups (of around 4/5 members) be established to carry out the scrutiny of the topics that have been selected for in-depth investigation. These sub groups operate in a more informal way and can consult with a wide range of witnesses in various settings, 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. Whilst more than one topic can be prioritised across the municipal year, only one sub group per Committee/Sub-committee can be established at any one time due to resourcing restraints.

## **6. Appendices**

None

## **7. Background Information**

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the author.

- Suggestions for topics for scrutiny received from elected members and senior officers.
- North Tyneside Scrutiny Handbook
- North Tyneside Constitution