

**Meeting:** Environment Sub-committee

**Date:** 6 July 2021

**Title:** Work Programme 2021/22

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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 2021/22 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 2021/22 work programme.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Sub-committee is invited to give consideration to determining its work programme for the year ahead. In doing so members may wish to take into account the following factors.
- 3.2 The Sub-committee is one of a number of overview and scrutiny sub-committees. The role of overview and scrutiny is described in the Council's Constitution as follows: "Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development involves councillors of all political parties, as leaders of their communities, examining the delivery of services and influencing decision makers to ensure that they meet the needs, and improve the lives, of people in North Tyneside.

It does this by:

- a) reviewing and challenging the impact of decisions and actions taken by the Elected Mayor, Cabinet and partner organisations;
  - b) carrying out investigations into services and policy areas of interest and concern to communities in North Tyneside;
  - c) involving communities in its work and reflecting their views and concerns; and
  - d) supporting and assisting the Elected Mayor, Cabinet and partner organisations in the formulation of their future plans, strategies and their decision making by making evidence based recommendations to them on how services can be improved."
- 3.3 The Environment Sub-committee has responsibility to perform these roles in relation to the following areas:
- Environment

- Energy use
- Climate Change
- Flood Risk Management
- Waste Management

3.4 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 ongoing within the Council or the North of Tyne Combined Authority scrutiny work programme?
- Will it add value/contribute to policy development?

3.5 The Sub-committee has the option of establishing sub-groups (of around 4/5 members) to carry out in-depth investigations. The 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 can be established at any one time due to resourcing restraints.

3.6 The following topics have been suggested by members of the authority for consideration by the Sub-committee:

- An examination of the practical steps that each Directorate of the authority has taken to address the authority's climate change ambitions such as, for example, the reduction of paper and plastic usage, changes to the way that it delivers its services and how successful those changes have been;
- An examination of the environmental impact of changes to the planning process including on biodiversity
- An examination of the Carbon Reduction Strategy: What has already been achieved and what innovative strategies have been tried/considered?;
- An examination of the benefits to the community of the greenspaces provided and maintained by the authority and how they are perceived by the community.

3.7 A proposed draft outline work programme for 2021/22 is attached. Members of the Sub-committee are invited to raise any other topics relevant to the remit of the Sub-committee that they think should be included in the work programme. Additional topics raised will be scheduled accordingly in consultation with the Chair and the Deputy Chair.

#### **4. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Outline Environment Sub-Committee work programme 2021/22.

#### **5. Background Information**

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report:

- Environment Sub-Committee minutes and work programme
- North Tyneside Scrutiny Handbook
- North Tyneside Constitution