

Meeting: Housing Sub-Committee

Date: 26 July 2021

Title: Work Programme 2021/22

Author: Emma Fagan

Tel: 643 5313

Service: Law and Governance

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the sub-committee with potential topics for inclusion in the 2021/22 HousingSub-Committee work programme.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The sub-committee is recommended to agree a work programme for 2021/22 and identify any further topics relevant to the remit of the sub-committee that could be included in the work programme.

3. Details

- 3.1 The sub-committee are 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 suggestions and framework.
- 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 Housing Sub-Committee has responsibility to perform these roles in relation to the following areas:
- Housing
 - Community Safety
- 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 East Combined Authority scrutiny work programme?
 - Will it add value/contribute to policy development?
- 3.5 The following items have already been scheduled for inclusion in the Housing Sub-Committee work programme:
- Impact of the end of the evictions ban
 - Affordable Homes
 - Priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Lettings Policy Review
- 3.6 All Elected Members were invited to put forward suggestions for inclusion in the scrutiny work programmes. The following ideas were received in relation to the remit for Housing Sub-Committee:
- What is being done to get more council housing?
 - Community protection has been a concerning area over the past year and feel with the increase in anti social behaviour I think we should also look at this area.
 - An investigation into affordable housing, in fact do we need a report on residents' housing status in the borough post-pandemic. Many may be struggling or in danger of losing their homes due to loss of work and/or the impact of payment holidays.
 - Can we look into innovative housing models that can help eg co-housing, housing coops, self-build?
 - Are we thinking about whole life housing? Maybe something to be considered.
- 3.6 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. As yet a topic has yet to be identified for in-depth investigation by a sub-group.
- 3.7 The sub-committee are invited to raise any others 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

N/A

5. Background Information

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

- North Tyneside Council Constitution