

**Meeting: Housing Sub-Committee**

**Date: 4 July 2022**

**Title: Work Programme 2022-23**

---

**Author: Emma Fagan**

**Tel: (0191) 643 5313**

**Service: Law and Governance**

**Wards affected: All**

---

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present Members with suggestions and seek further contributions to enable the Housing Sub-Committee to formulate its work programme for 2022/23.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Sub-committee is recommended to identify any topics relevant to the remit of the sub-committee that could be included in the work programme.

## **3. Details**

### **Background**

- 3.1 Members and senior officers have been invited to put forward suggestions of possible topics for the work programme 2022/23. 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 Housing Sub-Committee has responsibility to perform these roles in relation to the following areas:
- Housing
  - Community Safety
- 3.4 The following suggestions have been received in relation to areas for the sub-committee to consider:
- Carbon reduction and green policies within the Housing service
  - The impact of the cost of living on Council tenants
  - Update on the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner
  - To review the Tenancy Agreement
  - To examine the Homeless policy and from on house support
  - To look at how the authority engages with developers
  - Updates on Rechargeable Repairs; Communal Area Cleaning project; Empty Home Waste Removals; Customer Satisfaction for New Tenants
  - Housing White Paper
  - Domestic Abuse Policy
  - Asylum and Migration including Homes for Ukraine
  - Tenant Involvement
  - Unified ICT system
- 3.5 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?
- 3.6 The sub-committee has the option of establishing sub-groups 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.
- 3.7 One suggestion for a study is carried over from the previous municipal year. This is to look at the support Council tenants receive when they have been a victim of anti-social behaviour.
- 3.8 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. Topics will be scheduled accordingly in consultation with the Chair and the Deputy Chair.