

Meeting: Environment Sub-Committee

Date: 12 July 2022

Title: Work Programme 2022/23

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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 2022/23 Environment Sub-Committee work programme.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The sub-committee is recommended to agree a work programme for 2022/23 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 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 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 Environment Sub-Committee has responsibility to perform these roles in relation to the following areas:
- The Environment;
 - Energy Use;
 - Climate Change;
 - Flood Risk Management; and
 - 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 East Combined Authority scrutiny work programme?
 - Will it add value/contribute to policy development?
- 3.5 A draft work programme has been formulated in consultation with the Chair and relevant officers. This is attached as Appendix A. It is based on the topics identified by members of the Council who have all been invited to suggest topics for examination by the overview and scrutiny committees and issues discussed at a meeting of scrutiny chairs and deputies held on 20 June 2022.
- 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 suitable topic has still to be identified for in-depth investigation by a sub-group.
- 3.7 The sub-committee is 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 may be included in the work programme now and throughout the year in consultation with the Chair and the Deputy Chair.

4. Appendices

Draft Environment Sub-Committee work programme 2022/23

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
- Environment Sub-Committee minutes and work programme 2021/22