

S22. ANNUAL SCRUTINY PLAN

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer on the annual scrutiny plan.

In terms of the Council's decision making structure the Scrutiny Committee was required to prepare a scrutiny plan for Council's approval. The report set out those areas for scrutiny which had been identified at the scrutiny workshop in May, and in discussion with the convener outwith the committee discussions.

In considering the potential areas for scrutiny, members were mindful of the experience of the pilot scrutiny panel in regard to officer and member commitment, and took the view that no more than one plan should operate at a time, but that there should be scope to add further panels, to a maximum of two operating at a given time, should members' availability increase.

The committee also considered the value of the inclusion, within the scrutiny plan, of a vacant slot. This vacant area for scrutiny should be of the committee's choosing with preference given to a suggestion from the opposition members of the committee.

Decision

The committee agreed to recommend to Council:-

- 1) that no more than one scrutiny panel will operate at any one time subject to the proviso that the maximum operating at anyone time can be increased to two at the discretion of the Scrutiny Committee;**
- 2) the following areas for scrutiny as part of the annual scrutiny plan:-**
 - (i) the appointment of elected members to outside organisations and the process for reporting to Council,**
 - (ii) the adequacy of consultation with the public and community engagement more generally, and**
- 3) that the Scrutiny Committee should agree a third area for scrutiny with preference given to a subject suggested by opposition members in the event that they participate in the scrutiny process.**