

S9. Scrutiny Plan and Establishment of a Standing Scrutiny Panel on Performance

The committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services requesting that it establish a standing scrutiny panel on performance (the Performance Panel), identifying potential topics for inclusion in the Scrutiny Plan and establish a scrutiny panel on fly tipping and associated issues.

In terms of Standing Orders the standing scrutiny committee on performance, the Performance Panel consists of up to 5 core members, with the convener appointed by the panel itself. The committee was invited to set the political composition of the panel.

Although the panel's reporting cycle would be determined by the panel the following cycle was suggested:-

- Children's Services;
- Corporate and Housing Services;
- Development Services.

Following consideration of the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee Council had agreed in 29 March 2017 (ref FC83) to include fly tipping and associated issues on the scrutiny plan. The committee was invited to establish a scrutiny panel of up to 5 members to undertake the review. Following discussion members confirmed that the panel comprise 3 members (with 2 drawn from the Opposition groups and 1 from the Administration).

The Scrutiny Plan itself was set by Council. The committee was invited to consider topics for inclusion on the plan. Once these were agreed by the committee, Council would be invited to consider the committee's recommendations and confirm the Scrutiny Plan.

The committee discussed potential topics for inclusion in the scrutiny plan. Issues which had been discussed during today's meeting, in particular during the discussion on the Local Government Benchmarking Framework(LGBF) (ref SC6) were raised as potential topics. These were:-

- the planning process (in particular the cost);
- the veracity of the LGBF statistics in regard to Children's Services, in particular the cost; and
- the role of elected members in advising and assisting constituents in regard to complaints

In addition, the convener suggested that the housing allocation policy could be included as a potential item. Councillor Black further suggested that the Council's procedures for dealing with antisocial behaviour could be considered. Following discussion, the members of the committee supported Councillor Black's suggestions.

Additionally, Councillor Reid suggested that a committee may wish to consider how the Council engages with community groups to deliver services

which were traditionally delivered by the Council. After discussion, the committee again accepted this as a potential topic.

The convener summarised the discussion, indicating that reports on the following topics should be brought to committee as potential items for inclusion on the scrutiny plan:-

- the housing allocation policy;
- antisocial behaviour;
- the planning process including the costs;
- Children's Services benchmarking information;
- engagement with community groups to deliver Council services; and
- the role of elected members in engaging in the complaints process.

Decision

The committee agreed:-

- (1) potential topics for inclusion in the scrutiny plan and requested that that reports will be submitted to the next meeting on the topics identified:**
 - the housing allocation policy;
 - antisocial behaviour;
 - the planning process including the costs;
 - the veracity of Children's Services benchmarking information;
 - engagement with community groups to deliver Council services; and
 - The role of elected members in engaging in the complaints process;
- (2) to establish a 3 member scrutiny panel on fly-tipping and associated issues comprising of 2 Opposition members and 1 Administration member.**
- (3) that names of the members of the scrutiny panel would be provided to the Chief Governance Officer by Group Leaders;;**
- (4) to establish a standing scrutiny panel on performance to be known as the Performance Panel which all members may attend;**
- (5) that the core membership of the Performance Panel would be 5 members with 3, including its convener, being drawn from the Opposition and 2 being drawn from the Administration, and**
- (6) that names for the core membership would be provided to the Chief Governance Officer by the Group Leaders.**