

S24. Scrutiny Plan

The committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services summarising topics which had been identified for consideration ahead of the committee recommending items for inclusion on the scrutiny plan for 2018.

These were:-

- Responses to Anti Social Behaviour;
- Pupil Equity Fund – the use and effect of the pupil equity fund was raised at the last performance panel. It was suggested that if this was considered for inclusion it would not start until the end of the next calendar year to allow projects to come to fruition.
- External funding – alternative ways of funding and commissioning. The way the Council funds external organisations via grants has been questioned by Members. A scrutiny panel could look at alternative methods of commissioning such services e.g. public social partnerships, tendering etc;
- Members enquiries and complaints;
- The cost of the planning process – this issue emerged following discussion on the Local Government Benchmarking information. A report on this would be presented to the next meeting.
- Community involvement in the delivery of services – work on this issue was being progressed through the community planning partnership's locality planning arrangements. In the coming months workshops etc. on co production with local communities would be organised. It was therefore suggested that scrutiny of this topic might be premature.
- Local Government Benchmarking Framework – Children's Indicators – Again this was raised during the discussion on the Local Government Benchmarking overview report.

Council had agreed on 29 March 2017 (ref FC86) to include fly tipping on the Scrutiny Plan. At its meeting on 5 October 2017 (ref SC14), the committee agreed to recommend the Allocations Policy for inclusion in the plan. The Head of Policy, Technology and Improvement summarised the topics for consideration and recommended that any review of Community Involvement in the delivery of service could be carried out in 2019 and therefore not included in the 2018 plan.

The committee highlighted that it could not determine whether a review of the Planning Process could be recommended to Council because the report by the Director of Development Service, which had been requested by the committee on 17 August (ref SC9) had not yet been submitted for consideration.

Members reiterated their frustration and indicated that this should be highlighted to Council in the Scrutiny Plan report and that this could come forward as a recommendation following consideration of the report at the next meeting.

After discussion, the committee identified the following items:-

- antisocial behaviour;
- Pupil Equity Fund – as a potential item for 2019; and
- community involvement in the delivery of services – as a potential item for 2019.

Members also asked that the report to Council on 6 December 2017 highlights the position in regard to the Planning Process and that the committee may propose this as a fourth item following its meeting on 1 February 2018.

Decision

The committee agreed to:-

(1) recommend to Council the following scrutiny plan for 2018:-

- fly tipping;
- housing allocations; and
- antisocial behaviour;

(2) highlight the use and effect of the Pupil Equity Fund and community involvement in the delivery of as potential topics for 2019.