

TITLE OF REPORT: **Work Programme 2021-22 and Development of Work Programme for 2022-23**

REPORT OF: **Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive**
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Summary

This report is set out in two parts. The first part sets out the current work programme for the Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2021-22 and the second part details the current position / next steps in the development of the work programme for this OSC for the municipal year 2022-23.

2021-22 Work Programme

1. As a result of the continued uncertainties arising in relation to the Covid -19 pandemic, along with the pressures on services that this brought and having regard to the Council's approach to the development of a new performance framework, a more flexible approach continued to be adopted for scrutiny during 2021-22.
2. This approach recognised the demands on services and the Council as a whole but, at the same time ensured that we have been meeting our statutory obligations to provide an effective scrutiny function and scrutiny has concentrated on delivering work that is of genuine value and relevance to the work of the wider Council.
3. The work of this OSC was refocused on the current Covid-19 related priorities and the impacts of that alongside other priority issues for the Council / partners which are already being progressed elsewhere to avoid placing any additional burdens on service areas and a reduced programme of meetings was initially agreed. Subsequently, however, it became feasible to progress all but one of the meetings identified.
4. The Committee's current work programme is set out at Appendix 1 and any changes to the programme have been highlighted in bold and italics for ease of identification.

Development of 2022-23 OSC Work Programmes

Background

5. Given the Government's position in relation to the easing of restrictions nationally with regard to the Covid 19 pandemic and the ongoing move from a pandemic to an endemic situation it is now proposed to move back to "business as usual" for the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees and a full programme of meetings for each OSC for 2022-23.

Current Position

6. With this in mind, an initial consultation with OSC Chairs and other elected members and officers on the proposed priority issues for the new work programmes for 2022-23 was carried out between 16 February and 2 March 2022.
7. It was highlighted that any suggestions for the work programmes should focus on priority issues that would support the Council's Thrive agenda and add value, taking account of the priority areas outlined in the budget consultation; the development of the Council's new Performance Framework; the Gateshead Strategic Needs Assessment and the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
8. At this OSC meeting on 28 April 2022 there will be an opportunity for the OSC to comment on / discuss emerging issues for this OSC / put forward additional issues for consideration.

Next Steps

9. Subsequently, in line with usual practice, partner organisations will be consulted on the emerging issues for each OSC for 2022-23 with a view to OSCs considering any feedback/ additional suggestions / endorsing their respective work programmes at their June 2022 OSC meetings and referring them to Council for agreement.

Recommendations

10. The Committee is asked to:-
 - a) Note the work programme for 2021-22;
 - b) Comment on the emerging issues for this OSC's 2022-23 work programme / highlight any additional issues for consideration.

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