

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2019-2021

**10 September 2019**

1. At its meeting held on 9 July 2019 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee identified topics of interest/concern for possible inclusion in the work programmes for 2019-21 including (in no particular order):
  - a) Provision of crematorium
  - b) Staines Town Centre littering - land and River
  - c) Provision of a mix of entertainment facilities and activities in Staines-upon-Thames
  - d) Surrey County Council cuts - How to facilitate shared ownership of the impact on the Borough and especially the impact on the voluntary sector
  - e) Use of renewable energy
  - f) Governance of Knowle Green Estates
  - g) Housing Strategy
  - h) Fly tipping, abandoned vehicles and litter – how to engage and educate the public through partnership working
  - i) Triage access to GPs in Shepperton Health Centre
  - j) Pavement parking
  - k) Free off-peak parking in Staines-upon-Thames
  - l) Fire Service operation post reduction in Stations
2. Following the meeting the Chairman and Vice-Chairman met with officers to assess these topics using selection criteria as developed and promoted by South East Employers. The selection criteria chart is attached as Appendix A.
3. Following this assessment, a draft work programme was drawn up which is attached as Appendix B. The decision, with comments, on each of the topics identified by the Committee is set out below:

## **a) Provision of crematorium**

The need for this had already been identified by officers and some preparatory work begun. Scheduled in work programme to receive a report in January 2020.

## **b) Staines-upon-Thames Town Centre littering - land and River**

This matter falls within the remit of the existing River Thames Task Group. The Task Group has been asked to look at this issue and report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2020.

**c) Provision of a mix of entertainment facilities and activities in Staines**

Officers have already identified that this issue needs to be considered as part of the master planning for Staines-upon-Thames which is being looked at in the Local Plan. Councillors will be invited to feed into the stakeholder engagement sessions and, together with the community, in consultations arising from work on developing the Local Plan.

Not currently scheduled in Work Programme.

**d) Surrey County Council cuts - How to facilitate shared ownership of the impact on the Borough and especially the impact on the voluntary sector**

Surrey County Council are due to have discussions with Spelthorne BC on developing partnership working to address any impacts arising from the proposed cuts, in early September. Following feedback from that meeting, the Chairman will consider what opportunities there may be for Overview and Scrutiny to contribute and influence.

Not currently scheduled in Work Programme.

**e) Use of renewable energy**

This aligns with the Corporate Priority of 'Clean and Safe Environment' and has been scheduled in the work programme for a report in March 2020.

**f) Governance of Knowle Green Estates  
g) Housing Strategy**

These two topics are interlinked and reports are due to go to Cabinet in December 2019 for decision. Therefore they are both scheduled for pre-decision scrutiny in the work programme for November 2019. Officers will also provide an update on the Capital Strategy, which is also closely linked to these topics, at this meeting.

**h) Fly tipping, abandoned vehicles and litter – how to engage and educate the public through partnership working**

This aligns with the Corporate Priority of 'Clean and Safe Environment'. The Chairman feels that a task group would be best placed to undertake an in-depth piece of work on this topic and will propose the Task Group is set up at the September Committee meeting. However, it has yet to be decided when the task group will commence its work as this is partly dependent on officer availability.

#### **i) Triage access to GPs in Shepperton Health Centre**

Although this particular issue is currently localised and therefore does not meet the assessment criteria for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Chairman has agreed to schedule an item on the November 2019 work programme to consider the wider issue of access to primary healthcare in Spelthorne.

#### **j) Pavement parking**

This topic has been agreed for the work programme and is currently scheduled for the March 2020 meeting. We will approach the Highways team at Surrey County Council with an invitation to attend the Committee and report on their policy, reasoning and any scope for addressing the issue of parking on pavements.

#### **k) Free off-peak parking in Staines-upon-Thames**

This issue has been identified as one that would benefit from an in-depth piece of work by a task group with input potentially from Staines-upon-Thames Business Improvement District (BID). Work on the Off Street Parking Order for 2020 is due to start imminently and it is considered a task group could not complete its work in the timescales available to feed into this report.

However, the Chairman will propose a task group is set up at the September Committee meeting to commence its work in early 2020.

#### **l) Fire Service operation post reduction in Stations**

As consultation has finished it is now too late to affect the decision to be made by Surrey County Council. Overview and Scrutiny Committee would have more influence by reviewing the service after one year of operation to establish if prevention work had had an impact and consider the impact of a reduction in appliances.

The issue will therefore be scheduled in the Work Programme for late in the 2020/21 municipal year.

#### **m) Youth Council**

This topics has not been identified as a key issue for the public or likely to lead to effective outcomes for local people. Leisure Services have offered to prepare a report on all the services provided for young people in the Borough which will be circulated to members of the Committee.

Not currently scheduled in Work Programme.

## **Work Programme**

4. The Committee is therefore asked to approve the draft Work Programme for 2019/20 and initial outlines for 2020/21, which reflect the above assessments and is attached at Appendix B.
5. Any topics identified during consideration of the business at this meeting, or a future meeting, may be included in the above Work Programme, subject to the Committee's approval.
6. Any councillor is entitled to notify the Chairman, providing reasons, of an item they wish to be included on the agenda for the next available meeting of the Committee. The Chairman will consider such a request and if she agrees that it is an appropriate matter for the Committee to discuss, it will be included on the next available agenda.

## **Task Groups**

7. The Committee is asked to agree to set up the following task groups and the members to sit on them:
  - a) Fly tipping, abandoned vehicles and litter
  - b) Free off-peak parking in Staines-upon-Thames