

# Scrutiny Work Planning

# Our City : Our Plan



## Cross Cutting Principles

- The Relighting Our City recovery framework identified three cross cutting principles.
  - **Climate Conscious** – The climate emergency remains one of the biggest challenges facing the city.
  - **Driven by Digital** – Covid 19 has highlighted that digital connectivity and skills are vital to the social and economic prosperity of our communities.
  - **Fair and Equal** – We will continue to tackle the inequalities which impact the opportunities of local people.
- These principles are as important now as they were at the launch of Relighting Our City and have been taken forward and incorporated into the refreshed plan.

# Planning Work and Delivering Impact – First Principles:

## **Jointly owned work programme but remains Member led**

- Insight and perspective
- Legitimacy as elected representatives
- Evidence led

## **Rolling work programme updated throughout the year**

- Dynamic business with changing priorities
- Proportionate and effective with flexibility to escalate topics when appropriate

# **Planning Work and Delivering Impact – First Principles continued:**

## **Individual panel work plans coordinated and agreed at Scrutiny Board:**

- Better coordination and identification of cross cutting themes
- Ensures consistent focus on priorities

The focus should be on seeing scrutiny as a place to which critical local issues can be escalated. These may be complex matters of developing policy, stubbornly poor performance in a certain area, or worries about future priorities driven by changes in national policy in a given area. Understanding which are the “right” things to escalate depends on a clear understanding of scrutiny’s role.

(CfGS 2020)

# Scoping out work and setting objectives WHY are we doing this – what difference will it make – so what if we don't do it?

- Briefing meetings with the Chair, Vice Chair, SEB Leads and Scrutiny Officer
- Agreeing and designing topics to maximise effect, add clear value and show impact
- Agreeing:
  - The objectives for undertaking the work;
  - The basics on method – how evidence will be gathered;
  - The likely, or hoped for, outcomes.

Impact is the main  
criterion of whether a  
piece of work  
is worth developing or not

(CfGS 2020)



## Reasons to not proceed:

- It relates to similar review being carried out by the Executive
- It is not happening at the right time. The timescale may be too tight to influence a decision;
- It does not relate to an issue on which scrutiny can influence a decision maker. The main issues involved may lie within the purview of central Government, or another partners, to resolve.

## Different Ways to Proceed

- Single Item Committee Meeting
- A single meeting (not necessarily a committee meeting, informal scrutiny)
- Inquiry day
- Single member being commissioned to carry out research on behalf of a committee
- Short review
- Longer term task and finish group / Select Committee
- Public engagement
  - Local surveys, Workshops, Site visits, Focus Groups, Witnesses, co option of stakeholders, co-production

# Evidencing Impact

## Debriefing shortly after the work is complete:

- Once scrutiny has considered an issue (and recommendations have been submitted) the chair, along with other members, and support officers might get together for half an hour and think about how the work went

## Debriefing on outcomes:

- This is a longer term proposition. Some months, or possibly more than a year, after the work has concluded members and officers can meet to consider the actual impact of the work. Were recommendations implemented? Have things now improved for local people

## Annual Report or Review

## Pre-Decision Scrutiny

Item	Cabinet Date	Considered by
Healthwatch Tender	City of Wolverhampton Council	Health Scrutiny Panel on 8 July 2021
Public Health Annual Report	28 July 2021 Cabinet	Health Scrutiny Panel on 8 July 2021
Education Excellence Strategy	28 July 2021 Cabinet	Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel on 14 July 2021
Urology Services	Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust/CCG	Health Scrutiny 29 July 2021 Special meeting
Our People Strategy	17 November 2021 Cabinet	Our Council Scrutiny Panel on 2 November 2021
SEND Inspection Outcome	19 January 2022 Cabinet and 26 January 2022 Council	Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel on 6 January 2022
Our City : Our Plan; MTFS and Performance Framework	23 February 2022 Cabinet	Scrutiny Board on 8 February 2022
Wolverhampton Pound Select Committee Report	27 April 2022 Cabinet	Scrutiny Board on 19 April 2022
City Centre Hotel Delivery	25 May 2022 Cabinet	TBC
Five Year Events Programme	TBC	TBC
PFI Leisure Contract	25 May 2022 Cabinet	TBC

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