

For general release

REPORT TO:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE 22 JULY 2014
AGENDA ITEM:	10
SUBJECT:	A NEW APPROACH AND INITIAL SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15
LEAD OFFICER:	Julie Belvir, Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, Director of Democratic & Legal Services
PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:	Solomon Agutu, Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny

ORIGIN OF ITEM:	The Council's constitution requires the SSOC to agree the scrutiny work programme for the municipal year. As part of the overall programme, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee agrees its own work programme.
BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:	1) To agree the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee work programme for future meetings. 2) To consider any requests for Local Action Mini-Reviews from Members

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Scrutiny & Strategic Overview Committee has a constitutional responsibility to set the initial scrutiny programme for the municipal year.

In 2014/15 it is intended to add new approaches to the methods Croydon Scrutiny Committees have traditionally used in order to encourage transparent decision-making and inspire backbench Member participation and action. Details relating to these new approaches are outlined below and overleaf.

This report is subject to any decisions to be taken in Full Council on 15 July 2014.

2. A NEW APPROACH TO PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

It is proposed that pre-decision Scrutiny on major policy initiatives should take

place to provide transparency of decision-making and maximise backbench Member participation without slowing down the implementation of decisions.

Policy initiatives emerge from many sources although the majority emerge from public consultation and from formal business cases.

The new approach to pre-decision scrutiny will involve:

- a) A brief, presentation of the business case in question or the consultation material to be presented to Scrutiny Committee Members – formally or informally. Such meetings should take place sufficiently early in the process to enable Scrutiny Members to contribute their ideas and feedback on the proposed initiatives before the detail of the initiative is confirmed or any decisions are taken.
- b) Where there is public consultation, relevant Scrutiny Committee Chairs should be explicitly advised of the details of the consultation timetable so that relevant Scrutiny Members may attend such events.
- c) When consultation responses have been evaluated and before recommendations to Cabinet (or other decision-maker) are made, draft plans should be presented formally at the relevant Scrutiny Committee as pre-decision scrutiny.
- d) The Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee should have oversight of meetings held and consultations contributed to, in order to ensure their effectiveness.

3. LOCAL ACTION MINI-REVIEWS

This process is designed to provide all Members (not just Scrutiny Committee Members) with the opportunity to investigate and make recommendations on local issues or matters of interest which they feel merit action. It is intended that Members will lead the process under the auspices of the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee or relevant Sub-Committee using the asset of community knowledge to help with research and input of ideas.

It is intended that the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee will:

- a) Receive proposals for Local Action Mini-Reviews from Members
- b) Determine whether or not it is in the public interest for the Local Action Mini Review to take place
- c) Give monitoring responsibility for the Local Action Mini Review to the Scrutiny and Strategic Overview Committee or relevant Sub-Committee

- d) Receive reports on progress for each Local Action Mini-Review as part of the verbal update each Scrutiny Chair provides at each meeting.

A flowchart setting out the likely progress of a Local Action Mini-Review is attached as **Appendix 1**.

4. INITIAL SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

4.1 The Scrutiny Procedure Rules (extracted from the Constitution) state that:

“6.01 ...the Scrutiny & Strategic Overview Committee shall be responsible for setting its own work programme and the initial work programme of its Sub-Committees.

6.02 A balanced work programme should be developed including pre- and post-decision scrutiny, monitoring and external scrutiny. As far as reasonably practicable, there should be wide consultation on the work programme with Councillors, Chief Officers, external agencies and the wider community prior to its consideration by the Scrutiny & Strategic Overview Committee.”

4.2 The initial work programme is attached as **Appendix 2**.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SCRUTINY & STRATEGIC OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

5.1 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Acknowledge the adoption and inclusion of the new approaches to pre-decision scrutiny and Local Action Mini-Reviews within the work programme 2014/15.
- 2) Agree, with any amendments, the initial scrutiny work programme for 2014/15.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

APPENDICES:

CYP 20140722 AR10 Initial Scrutiny work programme

Appendix 1 – Local Action Mini Reviews – Flowchart

Appendix 2 – Overall Scrutiny Initial Work Programme 2014/15

**Appendix 3 – Initial Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Work Programme 2014/15**

APPENDIX 1

LOCAL ACTION 'MINI' SCRUTINY REVIEWS FLOWCHART

