

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 15 February 2023	Meeting Name: Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Commission
Report title:		Work Programme 2022-23	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		N/a	
From:		Scrutiny Officer	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the housing and community safety scrutiny commission note the work programme as at 15 February 2023 attached as Appendix 1.
2. That the housing and community safety scrutiny commission consider the addition of new items or allocation of previously identified items to specific meeting dates of the commission.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The general terms of reference of the scrutiny commissions are set out in the council's constitution (overview and scrutiny procedure rules - paragraph 5). The constitution states that:

Within their terms of reference, all scrutiny committees/commissions will:

- a) review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the council's functions
- b) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the cabinet and council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time in areas covered by its terms of reference
- c) review and scrutinise the performance of the council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas
- d) question members of the cabinet and officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions,

initiatives or projects and about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area

- e) assist council assembly and the cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues
 - f) make reports and recommendations to the cabinet and or council assembly arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process
 - g) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants
 - h) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working
 - i) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance
 - j) conduct research and consultation on the analysis of policy issues and possible options
 - k) question and gather evidence from any other person (with their consent)
 - l) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the scrutiny process and in the development of policy options
 - m) conclude inquiries promptly and normally within six months
4. The work programme document lists those items which have been or are to be considered in line with the committee's terms of reference.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The Housing service areas that fall within the scope of the Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Commission are:
- Resident Services (which includes area management, strategy and business support, strategic business and support housing services).
 - Customer Experience Division (which includes the Contact Centre; Customer Resolution and Specialist Services, My Southwark Home Owners and the Housing Solutions Services).
 - Asset Management Division (which includes New Homes; Investment, Repairs & Maintenance and Engineering).

6. As of 6 July 2022 the commission also now has within in its remit the area of community safety.
7. The cabinet portfolio elements relating to this commission are listed below:

Housing (Councillor Darren Merrill)

- Southwark’s Housing Strategy
- Management of the council’s homes, including sheltered and extra care homes
- Council housing repairs and major works services
- Delivery of new council homes, including older people’s homes
- Tenant and homeowner involvement, including relationships with Tenants and Resident Associations (TRAs) and Tenant Management Organisations (TMOs)
- Services and advice for council tenants, leaseholder and freeholder
- Maintenance of tenants and residents halls and related facilities on our estates
- Housing allocations and lettings
- Management of council owned temporary accommodation
- Homes for Gypsy, Roma and traveller communities
- Housing fire safety, cladding and remediation
- Relationship with housing associations
- Tackling empty homes and absentee landlords

Community Safety (Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle)

- Reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance
- Violence Against Woman and Girls (VAWG)
- Community Harm and Exploitation Hub
- Modern day slavery
- Community wardens
- The Southwark Young Advisors
- Public spaces protection orders (PSPOs)
- Strengthening community relations with the police and promoting equitable policing
- Private rented housing and short-term lets
- Licensing, Trading Standards, Environmental Health and gambling

Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development – Councillor Helen Dennis (Housing related portfolio area covered by Councillor James McAsh during Councillor Dennis’s maternity leave)

Delivering commitments

- Use our planning powers to robustly require new social rent homes

Parks, Streets and Clean Air – Councillor Catherine Rose (Housing related portfolio area)

Delivering commitments

- A new right to community gardens or food growing plots on estates

8. Set out in Appendix 1 (Work Programme) are the issues the housing scrutiny commission is due to consider in the 2022-23 municipal year.
9. The work programme is a standing item on the housing scrutiny commission agenda and enables the commission to consider, monitor and plan issues for consideration at each meeting.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Commission	Southwark Council Website	Amit Alva 020 7525 0496
Link: https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=605&Year=2022		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Work Programme 2022/23

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Amit Alva, Scrutiny Officer	
Report Author	Amit Alva	
Version	Final	
Dated	7 February 2023	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	No	No

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team	7 February 2023	