

Meeting: Culture and Leisure Sub-committee

Date: 31 July 2018

Title: Work Programme 2018/19

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Service: Law and Governance

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present Members with potential topics for inclusion in the 2018/19 Culture and Leisure Sub-committee work programme.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The sub-committee is recommended to:
1. Identify any further topics relevant to the remit of the sub-committee that could be included in the 2018/19 work programme; and
 2. Agree the work programme for the year ahead.

3. Background

- 3.1 The sub-committee is invited to give consideration to determining its work programme for the year ahead. In doing so members may wish to take into account the following suggestions and framework.

- 3.2 The sub-committee is one of a number of overview and scrutiny sub-committees. The role of overview and scrutiny is described in the Council's Constitution as follows:

"Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development involves councillors of all political parties, as leaders of their communities, examining the delivery of services and influencing decision makers to ensure that they meet the needs, and improve the lives, of people in North Tyneside.

It does this by:

- a) reviewing and challenging the impact of decisions and actions taken by the Elected Mayor, Cabinet and partner organisations;
- b) carrying out investigations into services and policy areas of interest and concern to communities in North Tyneside;
- c) involving communities in its work and reflecting their views and concerns; and

- d) supporting and assisting the Elected Mayor, Cabinet and partner organisations in the formulation of their future plans, strategies and their decision making by making evidence based recommendations to them on how services can be improved.”

3.3 The Culture and Leisure Sub-committee has responsibility to perform these roles in relation to the following areas:

- Active North Tyneside
- Arts
- Community Centres and Libraries
- Culture and Tourism
- Festivals and Events
- Heritage
- Indoor Sports Facilities
- Outdoor Activities
- Museums
- Parks and Play facilities

4. Formulating the proposed work programme

4.1 The process of establishing the 2018/19 overview and scrutiny work programme began when a press release was issued on the 22 March 2018 seeking the views of members of the public as to what services should be the subject of a scrutiny review. An article was also placed on the Authority web site and communication platforms inviting members of the public to raise issues that they thought would be suitable for scrutiny to investigate.

4.2 The following suggestion which fell within the remit of the Culture and Leisure Sub-committee was received from members of the public:

- Outdoor Assets – care and maintenance: *please look at how you look after your assets. The outdoor tennis courts in the south end of Churchill/Souter Park have had nets out all winter and the court surface is always gravelly and unswept. A newly planted tree was neglected last year and died and the Council had to buy a new tree at my prompting. I hope the Dome roof will have a maintenance programme to keep it white.*

4.3 The Senior Leadership Team also discussed the overview and scrutiny work programme to identify key policy areas for scrutiny to focus on. As a result a list of key plans and strategies has been referred to the chairs and deputy chairs of scrutiny sub-committee's to discuss with relevant Cabinet Members to inform the development of the scrutiny work programme. This list includes the following plans and strategies that relate to the remit of the sub-committee:

- Cycling Strategy 2017-32
- Words, Wellbeing and Wifi – Library Strategy 2016-21
- Past, Present and Future – A Heritage Strategy for North Tyneside 2014-21
- Great Art for Everyone – Arts Development Strategy 2014-21
- Visit North Tyneside – Tourism Strategy 2014-21

4.4 The sub-committee has previously contributed to the formulation of many of those strategies and it is proposed that discussions with the relevant Cabinet Members will

continue so that the sub-committee's work programme seeks to influence any work in these areas.

- 4.5 To ensure that the work programme is effective it is suggested that when evaluating topics for inclusion in the work programme the following criteria should be considered:
- Is it timely?
 - Will it duplicate any other work ongoing within the Council or the North East Combined Authority scrutiny work programme?
 - Will it add value/contribute to policy development?
- 4.6 The sub-committee has the option of establishing sub-groups (of around 4/5 members) to carry out in-depth investigations. The sub-groups operate in a more informal way and can consult with a wide range of witnesses in various settings, often over a shorter period of time. When dealing with a specific topic, this focused way of working is often more productive than trying to achieve the same in a formal committee setting. Whilst more than one topic can be prioritised across the municipal year, only one sub-group can be established at any one time due to resourcing restraints.
- 4.7 A draft work programme has been formulated in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the sub-committee. This is attached as Appendix A. It is based on outstanding scrutiny exercises carried over from 2017/18 and topics identified by the Chair and Deputy.
- 4.8 The sub-committee is invited to raise any others topics relevant to the remit of the sub-committee that they think should be included in the work programme. Additional topics raised will be scheduled accordingly in consultation with the Chair and the Deputy Chair.

5. Appendices

Appendix A - Draft Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee work programme 2018/19.

6. Background Information

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the author:

- North Tyneside Constitution.
- Culture and Leisure Sub-Committee minutes and work programme 2017/18.