

Annual Scrutiny Work Programme

The use of a template has helped to focus the activity of Task and Finish groups, and is probably one reason why they have been so successful in probing specific issues over the life of the last council.

We would like to introduce something similar for Scrutiny so that Members have a better opportunity not only to suggest topics, but also understand why other members may be bringing forward their suggestions. The standardisation will also help to assess the relative merits of the topics brought forward and make prioritising and choosing between possibly competing topics easier and more transparent – because it will be a more objective process.

This template sets out the key features of topics for the Scrutiny Work Programme. Members proposing topics should be able to set out why the topic should be included in the work programme – and be able to indicate what the ‘Expected benefits/Outcomes’ will be.

If they have some ideas on the approach they believe should be used, who they would like to hear from in the work, and the types of evidence they want to receive they can also include this information. However this is not as essential because these elements of the work programme can be worked up with support from relevant officers once the topic has been agreed for inclusion by the Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Chairs.

Timescales for completion and inclusion in the schedule of Scrutiny Committee meetings will also be confirmed when the approach that will be used to undertake the work and any more detailed Terms of Reference [and Project Plan e.g. for Task and Finish group Work] have been agreed.

Evaluating the proposed topics

The following criteria should be used by the Scrutiny Committee and will be used the Scrutiny Chairs to support their evaluating and prioritising each proposed topic for the Scrutiny Committee work programmes. With support from Officers the Scrutiny Chairs will co-ordinate topics that would fall within more than one Committee, identifying where joint working will take place or which Committee will take the lead.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING TOPIC	CRITERIA FOR POSSIBLY REJECTING TOPIC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the issue affect more than one area in the county?• Is it a key issue for the public?• Is it or has it been a poor performing service?• Is there or has there been a high level of user dissatisfaction with the service?• Is there a high level of budgetary commitment to the service?• Is there a pattern of budgetary overspends?• Does the topic relate to the Council corporate priorities / central government priorities?• Has new government guidance or legislation been released?• Is there scope to involve the service users/ the public in a review?• Can scrutiny members reasonably expect to add value?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the issue being, or soon to be, examined by Cabinet/officer group/other internal body and changes imminent?• Is new legislation or guidance expected within the next year?• Has the topic been covered by an in-depth scrutiny review in the 3 years?• Is the topic being proposed because of an individual complaint?

Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Template – Guiding Questions For Suggesting Topics and Completion

Topic	Expect Benefits/Outcomes	Approach	Activities	Witnesses/ Evidence required	Resources and other requirements	Lead Committee/ Lead Scrutiny Member
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you want to achieve by looking at this topic? • What difference will Scrutiny make by looking at the topic have? • How will you know that you have made a difference? • How does this topic further the priorities of the Council? • How does this topic address concerns/issues raised by the community? • What value will scrutinising this topic add? • Will service users and the public be involved in the work? <p>Overall view – will the impact of the scrutiny be more than the cost of doing it? Is it worth the investment?</p>	<p>What is the best way for you to scrutinise the topic to achieve your outcomes?</p> <p>e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task and finish groups • Select Committee (including preparation and pre-meeting) • Concurrent meetings on a single topic 	<p>How would you undertake your scrutiny activity?</p> <p>e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites visits • Live audio or video streaming • Member led research • Desk based research • Visits to other counties • Focus groups • Meeting people in the community • Customer experience • Preparation for Select Committee • Opportunity Risk Assessments 	<p>Who do you need to hear from? e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which officers • Which organisations • Individuals • Community reps <p>What do you need to know? e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service user experience • Customer intelligence • Performance information • Service usage information • Cost and budget information <p>How do you want to receive it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations • Reports • Briefing papers • Graphs • Tables • Videos 	<p>What do you need to have to support you to deliver your work?</p> <p>e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much Scrutiny officer support time? • How much member time? • What type of skills? • Any budget requirement e.g. to cover cost of travel, surveys, focus groups? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there anything that you need to have in place before you start or to finish your work? i.e. Dependences and interdependences 	<p>e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify specific committee or whether a joint exercise • Identify Lead Scrutiny Member

Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Topics, 2014-15

Committee: Enterprise and Growth Scrutiny Committee

Topic	Expect Benefits/Outcomes	Approach	Activities	Witnesses/ Evidence required	Resources and other requirements	Lead Committee/ Lead Scrutiny Member
Economic Redesign Work	<p>To use Members' experience and knowledge to act as critical friend in the Economic Redesign Work which will improve the economy of Shropshire</p> <p>Supporting effective commissioning</p> <p>Contributing to the shaping of improved systems and processes for the Council</p> <p>Supporting transformation of services/transition to different delivery models</p>	<p>Initial report and Presentation to the Committee by Economic Growth Programme Manager for context and understanding</p> <p>Task and Finish group to work alongside Economic Redesign work timetable – feeding in views to decision accelerator events</p>	<p>Site visits to see the project in Minsterley and Pontesbury</p> <p>Meeting people in the community</p> <p>Desk based research</p>	<p>Economic Redesign Work programme</p> <p>Claire Cox and Redesign Team</p> <p>The difference between current and future Council support for the economy</p> <p>Portfolio Holder/s</p>	<p>Officer time</p> <p>Claire Cox and Redesign Team</p> <p>Potential Site visit costs</p>	Cllr Steve Davenport
Fulcrum (formally known as RaBBS)	<p>Paul McCreary invited to attend Committee to answer questions and concerns raised by the RAG and the Committee. To then explore if further work is required.</p> <p>To understand new Public Protection working methods and any conflicts that this may cause.</p>	<p>Briefing paper to be sent to Members on new operating model, with an Officer to attend committee to answer questions.</p>	<p>Members to Question the Head of Public Protection with a view to deciding whether further scrutiny is required. If so, to establish the remit of investigation and to scope that enquiry which may take the form of rapid action task</p>	<p>Paul McCreary</p> <p>Users of Fulcrum Services</p> <p>Portfolio Holder/s</p>	<p>Officer time</p>	Cllr Steve Davenport

Topic	Expect Benefits/Outcomes	Approach	Activities	Witnesses/ Evidence required	Resources and other requirements	Lead Committee/ Lead Scrutiny Member
			and finish group			
Tourism	<p>To explore if further work is required on Tourism and the Visitor Economy following the implementations of recommendations from the Enterprise and Growth Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group in 2011.</p> <p>Following the formation of the Bridgnorth Tourism Group, Destination Partnerships have now been set up throughout the County and the Committee may wish to explore how effectively these work together and whether coverage of the County is now sufficiently comprehensive.</p>	<p>Briefing Paper sent to Members for review informing Members of the outcomes from earlier work. Also to include subsequent increase in service provision.</p> <p>Tourism Officer to attend Committee to answer Members' questions arising from the briefing paper</p>	<p>Members to question the Tourism Officer with a view to deciding whether further scrutiny action is required.</p> <p>If so, to establish the remit of investigations and to scope that enquiry which may take the form of a one item agenda meeting of the committee or the establishment of a rapid action task and finish group.</p>	<p>Louse Cross</p> <p>Any local businesses / representatives of the local tourism partnerships / members of the public</p> <p>Portfolio Holder/s</p>	<p>Officer Time</p> <p>Tourism strategy</p>	Cllr Steve Davenport
Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy	<p>Annual review of the Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy which the Committee had an active role in developing and monitoring.</p> <p>To ensure that the strategy is still current and of benefit to the economy of Shropshire.</p>	One item Agenda for Committee to monitor the progress of strategy.	Members to have the opportunity to receive feedback from the Shropshire Business Board Chair and Chief Executive of the Chamber of Commerce on the effectiveness of the strategy.	<p>Shropshire Business Board Chair Mandy Thorn</p> <p>Chief Executive of Chamber of Commerce Richard Sheehan</p> <p>Portfolio Holder/s</p>	<p>Officer Time</p> <p>Shropshire Economic Growth Strategy</p> <p>Mark Pembleton</p>	Cllr Steve Davenport

Topic	Expect Benefits/Outcomes	Approach	Activities	Witnesses/ Evidence required	Resources and other requirements	Lead Committee/ Lead Scrutiny Member
Planning- broad scope	To explore if further work is needed on the working of the Planning Committees	<p>Briefing Paper sent to Members for review informing Members of the outcomes from earlier work.</p> <p>Planning Officer to attend Committee to answer Members' questions arising from the briefing paper</p>	<p>Members to question the Planning Officer with a view to deciding whether further scrutiny action is required.</p> <p>If so, to establish the remit of investigations and to scope that enquiry which may take the form of a one item agenda meeting of the committee or the establishment of a rapid action task and finish group.</p>	<p>Planning Officers</p> <p>Portfolio Holder</p>	Officer time	Cllr Steve Davenport
Telecom Connectivity	To review the service provided by the telecommunications companies since the final report of the Task and Finish Group previously established to examine this.	<p>Briefing Paper sent to Members for review informing Members of the outcomes from earlier work.</p> <p>Officer to attend Committee to answer Members' questions arising from the briefing paper</p>	For Members to have the opportunity to receive feed-back from representatives of the telecommunication s industry on the provision of service in the County	<p>Representative s from telecommunications industry</p> <p>Representative from the Shropshire Business Board</p>	<p>Mark Pembleton</p> <p>Officer time</p>	Cllr Steve Davenport