

EXTERNAL SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME

Committee name	External Services Select Committee
Officer reporting	Nikki O'Halloran, Corporate Resources and Services
Papers with report	Appendix A – Work Programme
Ward	n/a

HEADLINES

To enable the Committee to track the progress of its work and forward plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the External Services Select Committee considers the Work Programme at Appendix A and agrees any amendments.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. At its meeting on 8 September 2020, the Committee agreed that all future meetings be scheduled to start at 6.30pm for the remainder of the municipal year, to provide those attending straight from work with a little extra time to arrive. Should the need arise, the Committee will be able to vary the start time on an ad hoc basis. Given the current changing situation with regard to COVID-19, whether the meeting will be held in person or virtually will also be determined on an ad hoc basis.
2. The meeting dates for the 2020/2021 municipal year were agreed by Council on 16 January 2020 and are as follows:

Meetings	Room
Thursday 11 June 2020 CANCELLED	GR6
Thursday 2 July 2020, 6.30pm (Private / Informal)	VIRTUAL
Tuesday 8 September 2020, 6.30pm	VIRTUAL
Thursday 8 October 2020, 6.30pm	VIRTUAL
Tuesday 10 November 2020, 6.30pm	VIRTUAL
Tuesday 12 January 2021, 6.30pm	VIRTUAL
Tuesday 9 February 2021, 6.30pm	VIRTUAL
Tuesday 23 March 2021, 6.30pm	VIRTUAL
Wednesday 28 April 2021, 6.30pm	VIRTUAL
Thursday 29 April 2021, 6.30pm	VIRTUAL

3. The meeting dates for the 2021/2022 municipal year were agreed by Council on 25 February 2021 and are as follows:

Meetings	Room
Wednesday 16 June 2021, 6.30pm	CR6
Tuesday 20 July 2021, 6.30pm	CR6
Wednesday 15 September 2021, 6.30pm	CR6
Thursday 7 October 2021, 6.30pm	CR6
Tuesday 23 November 2021, 6.30pm	CR6
Thursday 27 January 2022, 6.30pm	CR6
Tuesday 22 February 2022, 6.30pm	CR5
Tuesday 22 March 2022, 6.30pm	CR5
Wednesday 27 April 2022, 6.30pm	CR6

4. Currently, meetings can only be held virtually up until 7 May 2021. Although meeting rooms have been booked for the meetings in the new municipal year, the format of the meeting (whether in person or virtual) will be guided by the Government.

Live Broadcasting of Meetings

5. It should be noted that Cabinet, at its meeting on 30 May 2019, agreed that all future policy overview and select committee meetings would be broadcast live on YouTube. As such, all formal External Services Select Committee meetings will be broadcast live. If a Committee meeting is to be held virtually, it will also be streamed and broadcast live.

Topics to be Scheduled into the Work Programme

6. It should be noted that the Committee is required to meet with the local health trusts at least twice each year. It is also required to scrutinise the crime and disorder work of the Safer Hillingdon Partnership (SHP).
7. It was agreed that representatives from The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (THH) would be invited to attend the meeting on 28 April 2021 to talk to Members about the measures that have been taken with regard to infection prevention and control. THH will also be asked to provide Members with an update on the progress of the new hospital development. At this meeting, the Committee will also receive an update from NHS England (NHSE) / NHS Improvement (NHSI) in relation to the review of the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre.
8. All Trusts, except for THH, have been invited to the meeting on 29 April 2021 to provide the Committee with an update on the work that they have been undertaking.

Possible Topics for Consideration in a Single Meeting

9. Once the Work Programme for 2021/2022 has been populated with the Committee's statutory scrutiny responsibilities, there are opportunities to scrutinise other issues in the remaining meetings. Members have been asked to suggest possible topics that fall within the Committee's Terms of Reference for consideration in these meetings:
- Preventative Health*: Prevention is a concept that refers to upstream interventions which seek to help people maintain or improve health before it is compromised and could include cancer screening, childhood immunisations or the work undertaken by Hillingdon Health and Care Partners (HHCP). As this is such a wide area,

- consideration will need to be given to making this more specific. Possible witnesses could include: health partners, service users and Healthwatch Hillingdon;
- b. OWL/Neighbourhood Watch*: OWL (Online Watch Link) keeps communities safe, helps reduce crime and keeps people informed of what's going on locally. It's a secure platform for the public and shared with the police and local authority to maximise the potential of Neighbourhood Watch, Rural Watch, Business Watch and dozens of other schemes. OWL sends subscribers the latest local crime alerts and provides management tools for maintaining and expanding watches. Possible witnesses could include: the police, Neighbourhood Watch organisers and local residents associations;
 - c. 5G and Greater Connectivity*: In telecommunications, 5G is the fifth-generation technology standard for broadband cellular networks, which mobile phone companies began deploying worldwide in 2019, and is the planned successor to the 4G networks which provide connectivity to most current mobile phones. 5G will be much faster than 4G making it (and even high-speed fibre broadband) seem sluggish. A minimum expectation is for download speeds of 10Gbps, more than 1000x faster than 4G and enabling an entire HD film to be downloaded in under 10 seconds. What coverage is available in Hillingdon? How does this compare to the rest of London / England? Possible witnesses could include: providers and users.
 - d. Children's Dental Services*: Members to consider whether the Dentistry Select Panel review could be undertaken in a single meeting review. The Select Panel held a single witness session on 12 February 2020. Since then, the Chairman of the Select Panel and one of the remaining four Members on the Panel have gained Cabinet positions so will be withdrawn from the Select Panel. It is suggested that the Select Committee consider looking at this issue as a single meeting review during its usual meeting schedule and that a report with any findings and recommendations subsequently be submitted to Cabinet;
 - e. Journalism and Local Democracy: To establish the role of journalism in the Borough with regard to local democracy and look at how journalism has changed. How can journalism help residents to become more engaged in the local democratic process? How can democracy be promoted amongst young people? The Local Democracy Reporting Service (LDRS) is a public service news agency funded by the BBC, provided by the local news sector and used by qualifying partners (it's like a franchise where different companies with different approaches use common editorial standards and all publish into the same system). Possible witnesses could include: Brunel journalism students, the Council's Communications Team, LDRS journalist, and representatives from local radio and Nextdoor;
 - f. Apprenticeships and Adult Learning: The apprenticeship levy is paid by large employers with a pay bill of over £3 million (they pay 0.5% of their total annual pay bill). Currently, only 2% of employers pay the apprenticeship levy. The levy is there to fund apprenticeship training for all employers. Smaller employers (those with a total annual pay bill of less than £3million) pay just 5% of the cost of their apprenticeship training and the Government pays the rest. What progress and benefits has the apprenticeship scheme provided to the private sector? Has the levy enabled private sector businesses to develop the skills needed and fill any gaps? What adult learning opportunities are provided in the private sector? Possible witnesses could include: local private sector businesses and HCUC (A merger between Uxbridge College and Harrow College);
 - g. River Maintenance and Upkeep: To focus on the work being undertaken by the Environment Agency (EA) in relation to river maintenance and upkeep (specifically

not about canals or water treatment). Possible witnesses could include: EA and Colne Valley Partnership.

10. At its meeting on 23 March 2021, Members indicated that they would like to prioritise the first four items in the above list*. To enable the review of children's dental services to be concluded, this has been provisionally scheduled for the meeting on 16 June 2021.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.