

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 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

Live Broadcasting of Meetings

3. It should be noted that Cabinet, at its meeting on 30 May 2019, agreed that all future select committee meetings would be broadcast live on YouTube. As such, all formal External Services Select Committee meetings will be broadcast live.

Topics to be Scheduled into the Work Programme

4. 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).

5. 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 previously suggested topics that fall within the Committee's Terms of Reference for consideration in these meetings and these have been included in the draft Work Programme attached to this report:
- a. 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;
 - b. Digital Connectivity: Digital connectivity is becoming more important to residents and local businesses. The technological infrastructure in Hillingdon is likely to have a profound impact on how Residents can live and work, and how businesses can deliver services and employ talent. Digital connectivity is likely to be a major factor in the long-term economic success of a area. The introduction of 5G and Full Fibre over the next 10 years should massively enhance the digital capacity in Hillingdon and bring new opportunities and innovations on work, travel, communications, safety and health and social care. Possible witnesses could include: providers and users;
 - c. Children's Dental Services: Members agreed to hold a single meeting in relation to children's dental services to finish the work that had been started by the Select Panel the pandemic. The Select Panel had 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 had withdrawn from the Select Panel. A report with any findings and recommendations will subsequently be submitted to Cabinet; and
 - d. Journalism and Local Democracy: To establish the role of journalism and online discussion forums 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.
6. At its meeting on 23 March 2021, Members indicated that they would like to prioritise the four items listed above. To enable the review of children's dental services to be concluded, this has been scheduled for the meeting on 16 June 2021.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.