

## EXTERNAL SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME

<b>Committee name</b>	External Services Select Committee
<b>Officer reporting</b>	Nikki O'Halloran, Corporate Services and Transformation
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A – Work Programme
<b>Ward</b>	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. Committee meeting will usually start at 6.30pm. Should the need arise, the Committee will be able to vary the start time 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
<del>Wednesday 16 June 2021, 6.30pm</del>	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. To fulfil its statutory health scrutiny role, it should be noted that the Committee is required to meet with the local health trusts at least twice each year. To fulfil its statutory role to scrutinise the local crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP), the Committee is also required to scrutinise the 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. At its meeting on 16 June 2021, Members agreed to include the following topics for consideration in these meetings:
  - 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; and
  - b. 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. The issue of children's dental services was covered at the External Services Select Committee meeting on 16 June 2021 where useful and detailed discussion was undertaken with representatives from Hillingdon Public Health, Hillingdon Local Dental Committee and Whittington Health NHS Trust. Although this had initially been planned as a single meeting, there were a number of organisations who had been unable to attend the meeting. As such, it was agreed that the next meeting on 20 July 2021 would also concentrate on children's dental health in an attempt to encourage more witnesses to attend. For those organisations that are unable to send a representative to attend, effort will be made to arrange informal meetings with them and the Committee Chairman and Labour Lead.
7. Digital connectivity had provisionally been scheduled for consideration at the meeting on 20 July 2021. To enable the Committee to continue to scrutinise the issue of children's dental services at this meeting, Members agreed that digital connectivity be held in abeyance until it was possible to schedule it for a different meeting.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.