

**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills,
Director responsible for Democratic Services**

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	24 October 2017
Subject:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Summary:

This item enables the Committee to consider and comment on the content of its work programme for the coming year to ensure that scrutiny activity is focused where it can be of greatest benefit. The work programme will be reviewed at each meeting of the Committee to ensure that its contents are still relevant and will add value to the work of the Council and partners.

Members are encouraged to highlight items that could be included for consideration in the work programme.

Actions Required:

Members of the Committee are invited to:

- 1) Review, consider and comment on the work programme as set out in Appendix A to this report.
- 2) Highlight for discussion any additional scrutiny activity which could be included for consideration in the work programme.

1. Background

Overview and Scrutiny should be positive, constructive, independent, fair and open. The scrutiny process should be challenging, as its aim is to identify areas for improvement. Scrutiny activity should be targeted, focused and timely and include issues of corporate and local importance, where scrutiny activity can influence and add value.

Overview and scrutiny committees should not, as a general rule, involve themselves in relatively minor matters or individual cases, particularly where there are other processes, which can handle these issues more effectively.

All members of overview and scrutiny committees are encouraged to bring forward important items of community interest to the committee whilst recognising that not all items will be taken up depending on available resource.

Committee Scope

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee combines two areas of responsibility (Protecting & Sustaining the Environment, Sustaining & Growing Business & the Economy) to provide an opportunity to join these areas and encourage a more holistic approach and a greater focus on strategic outcomes. There is a clear logic to this arrangement as environment and economy are directly connected to supporting growth.

As part of its terms of reference, the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee will work to review and scrutinise the following services and their outcomes:

- environment and growth, including:
 - carbon management
 - the natural and built environment
 - sustainable planning and the historic environment
 - growth and access
- economic development projects including broadband
- waste management, including waste recovery and recycling
- skills and employability
- support to business and growth sectors
- business investment
- attracting funding for Lincolnshire, including the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership

There will inevitably be service specific subjects that the scrutiny committee will want to consider, either through policy development, project updates, or through pre-decision scrutiny.

There will also be a number of strategic considerations which span both environment and economy. It is likely that those areas which require strategic consideration will include but not be limited to the following:

Coast – taking a holistic approach to coastal issues. This should combine various partners' interests (especially Environment Agency) as well as achieving a balance between flood risk management and the exploitation of coastal assets for tourism and leisure purposes.

Water – Lincolnshire County Council, Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership, and other partners have worked on a water management plan, which was launched in the House of Commons last year. The water management plan is closely linked to Lincolnshire's Joint Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy, focusing on those strategic elements of our broader approach to managing water which can make a critical difference in promoting economic growth. The plan has been well received by government officials and local business and it is now an appropriate time for LCC and the LEP to take the plan into its implementation stage.

Visitor economy – Lincolnshire's visitor economy has several strengths, but the natural environment and associated heritage is one of the most prominent strengths. Our historical importance, from Magna Carta and the Battle of Lincoln Fair through to the anniversary of the Pilgrim Fathers setting sail all provide opportunities to strengthen the visitor economy.

Members may also wish to note that environmental and economic issues should not be considered in isolation. There is a strong connection between investments in highway infrastructure and growth, between support for school age children and the wider skills agenda, and the relationship between the council's own heritage assets and the visitor economy. These will require a relationship with the Highways and Transport, Children and Young People, and Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee's respectively.

Purpose of Scrutiny Activity

Set out below are the definitions used to describe the types of scrutiny, relating to the items on the Committee Work Programme:

Policy Development - The Committee is involved in the development of policy, usually at an early stage, where a range of options are being considered.

Pre-Decision Scrutiny - The Committee is scrutinising a proposal, prior to a decision on the proposal by the Executive, the Executive Councillor or a senior officer.

Policy Review - The Committee is reviewing the implementation of policy, to consider the success, impact, outcomes and performance.

Performance Scrutiny - The Committee is scrutinising periodic performance, issue specific performance or external inspection reports.

Consultation - The Committee is responding to (or making arrangements to) respond to a consultation, either formally or informally. This includes pre-consultation engagement.

Budget Scrutiny - The Committee is scrutinising the previous year's budget, or the current year's budget or proposals for the future year's budget.

Requests for specific items for information should be dealt with by other means, for instance briefing papers to members.

Identifying Topics

Selecting the right topics where scrutiny can add value is essential in order for scrutiny to be a positive influence on the work of the Council. Members may wish to consider the following questions when highlighting potential topics for discussion to the committee:-

- Will Scrutiny input add value?
Is there a clear objective for scrutinising the topic, what are the identifiable benefits and what is the likelihood of achieving a desired outcome?
- Is the topic a concern to local residents?
Does the topic have a potential impact for one or more section(s) of the local population?
- Is the topic a Council or partner priority area?
Does the topic relate to council corporate priority areas and is there a high level of budgetary commitment to the service/policy area?
- Are there relevant external factors relating to the issue?
Is the topic a central government priority area or is it a result of new government guidance or legislation?

Scrutiny Review Activity

Where a topic requires more in-depth consideration, the Committee may commission a Scrutiny Panel to undertake a Scrutiny Review, subject to the availability of resources and approval of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. The Committee may also establish a maximum of two working groups at any one time, comprising a group of members from the committee.

2. Conclusion

The Committee's work programme for the coming year is attached at Appendix A to this report. A list of all upcoming Forward Plan decisions relating to the Committee is also attached at Appendix B.

Members of the Committee are invited to review, consider and comment on the work programme as set out in Appendix A and highlight for discussion any additional scrutiny activity which could be included for consideration in the work programme. Consideration should be given to the items included in the work programme as well as any 'items to be programmed' listed.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

Not Applicable

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme
Appendix B	Forward Plan of Decisions relating to the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Daniel Steel, Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 01522 552102 or by e-mail at daniel.steel@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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