

Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24

Place Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Councillor Ron Woodley

Support Officer: Tim Row, Principal Democratic Services Officer, timrow@southend.gov.uk

Agenda Item	Purpose	Description	Cabinet Portfolio	Lead officer
Littering around schools:	To review the placement of public waste bins, anti-littering schemes with schools			
Fly tipping and commercial waste:	issues with commercial waste dumping by public bins on London Road etc			
Car parking	To consider opportunities for shops to validate free parking, first hour free in key areas, etc			
Bus routes	To assess the value of subsidies for under-used bus routes, designing a route to accommodate these			

Potholes	To review the criteria for a fill vs re-surfacing, what is the average rate of deterioration for a repair			
Drain blockages	To the frequency of unblocking, depth of clearances, high risk areas			
Tree removal and replanting policy	To see where trees are replanted and whether possible to keep within original wards.			

Cross-cutting Scrutiny, reviews and working panels

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Outside Bodies Task and Finish			Leader	S Cox (Principal Democratic Services Officer)

Issues suitable for scrutiny

The following criteria can help to determine a scrutiny committee's programme. A topic does not need to meet all of these criteria in order to be scrutinised, but they are intended as a guide for prioritisation.

- Is the issue a priority area for the Council?
- Is it a key issue for local people?
- Will it be practicable to implement the outcomes of the scrutiny?
- Are improvements for local people likely?
- Does it examine a poor performing service?
- Will it result in improvements to the way the Council operates?
- Is it related to new Government guidance or legislation?

Other points also need to be taken into account when considering whether to review a particular issue:

- Is the subject specific – so that those undertaking the scrutiny can understand exactly what they are scrutinising?
- Is it achievable within the timescale allowed?

The following criteria may also be helpful in identifying what issues are not suitable for scrutiny:

- The issue is already being examined by another body.
- The matter is sub judice or prejudicial to the Council's interests.
- The matter relates to a specific case falling within the complaints procedure.
- The issue relates to an individual disciplinary matter or grievance.

It will be important for members to:

- Ensure that the programme includes a balance of different types of work, including short, medium and long term reviews.
- Issues could be considered at single meetings, or may need to be the subject of a longer term, more in-depth scrutiny review;
- Have regard to the ongoing work of the scrutiny committees, including performance monitoring, budget scrutiny, crime and disorder scrutiny and consideration of the Corporate Plan;
- Ensure that the scrutiny committees retain sufficient capacity to respond to issues that may arise within the year, including pre-scrutiny and call-ins;
- Take into account the resources available to support scrutiny.

The scrutiny chairs will need to consider how best to carry out the pieces of work in discussion with relevant officers and the scrutiny team.