

Decision Maker: EXECUTIVE AND RESOURCES
POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 8th October 2015

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
Tel: 0208 461 7743 E-mail: graham.walton@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report offers the Committee an opportunity to consider its work programme for 2015/16, including scheduled meetings and PDS working groups. The Committee now has nine meetings scheduled during 2015/16 – the dates are set out in Appendix 1, with a draft list of the items to be considered.
-

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **The Committee is requested to consider its work programme and indicate any particular issues that it wishes to consider.**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: All PDS Committee receive a report on their work programmes.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council:
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £326,980
 5. Source of funding: 2015/16 revenue budget
-

Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 8 posts (7.39fte)
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Maintaining the work programme takes less than an hour between meetings.
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: This report does not involve an executive decision
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): This report is intended primarily for the benefit of members of the Committee.
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

3. COMMENTARY

Meeting Schedule

- 3.1 Each PDS Committee determines its own work programme, balancing the roles of (i) holding the Executive to account, (ii) policy development and review and (iii) external scrutiny. This Committee has the additional role of providing a lead on scrutiny issues and coordinating PDS work.
- 3.2 PDS Committees need to prioritise their key issues. The work programme also needs to allow room for items that arise through the year, including Member requests, call-ins and referrals from other Committees. Committees need to ensure that their workloads are realistic and balanced, allowing sufficient time for important issues to be properly scrutinised. Members also need to consider the most appropriate means to pursue each issue – the current overview and scrutiny arrangements offer a variety of approaches, whether through a report to a meeting, a time-limited working group review, a presentation, a meeting focused on a single key issue or any other method.
- 3.3 A schedule of the Committee’s meetings in 2015/16 is attached at [Appendix 1](#), along with draft lists of reports. The timing of meetings is tied to the need to pre-scrutinise Executive agendas. As in previous years, question sessions with the Leader, Resources Portfolio Holder and Chief Executive have been included in the programme and dates have been confirmed with them.

Sub-Committees and Working Groups

- 3.4 The Policy Development and Scrutiny Toolkit suggests that each Committee should aim to carry out no more than two or three full scale reviews each year, and it offers guidance and techniques for prioritising reviews. At a time of pressure on Member and officer resources it is important that any additional work is carefully targeted at priority issues where improvements can be achieved. The Committee currently has a working group looking at Contracts. In recent years, this Committee has examined a number of issues through its Working Groups - part of the Committee’s workload may include follow-up work on some of these reviews.
- 3.5 A schedule of Sub-Committees and Working Groups across all PDS Committees is attached as [Appendix 2](#) to this report, updated with details of PDS working groups appointed for 2015/16.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy/Financial/Legal/Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Previous Work Programme reports.

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE 2015/165

Meeting 1: Thursday 14th May 2015

Standard items (Matters Arising/Forward Plan/Executive Agenda/PDS Updates/Work Programme)

Meeting 2: Wednesday 3rd June 2015

Standard items (Matters Arising/Forward Plan/Executive Agenda/Work Programme)

Monitoring Report: Section 106

Scrutiny of the Resources Portfolio Holder

Meeting 3: Thursday 9th July 2015

Standard items (Matters Arising/Forward Plan/Executive Agenda/Work Programme)

Bromley Youth Employment Project- Quarterly Monitoring

Monitoring Report: Revenues Service

Monitoring Report: Benefits Service

Monitoring Report: Exchequer Services

Monitoring Report: Customer Services

Scrutiny of the Chief Executive

Meeting 4: Thursday 3rd September 2015

Standard items (Matters Arising/Forward Plan/Executive Agenda/Work Programme)

Contracts Register (Resources and Corporate)

Use of Consultants

Acquisition of Investment Properties

Scrutiny of the Leader

Meeting 5: Thursday 8th October 2015

Standard items (Matters Arising/Forward Plan/ Executive Agenda/Work Programme)

Meeting 6: Thursday 26th November 2015

Standard items (Matters Arising/Forward Plan/Executive Agenda/Work Programme)

Customer Services – Healthcheck Outputs (following work with departments)

Scrutiny of the Resources Portfolio Holder

Meeting 7: Wednesday 6th January 2016

Standard items (Matters Arising/Forward Plan/Executive Agenda/Work Programme)

Contracts Register (Resources and Corporate)

Monitoring Report: Revenues Service

Monitoring Report: Benefits Service

Monitoring Report: Exchequer Services

Monitoring Report: Customer Services

Monitoring Report: IT Contract

Scrutiny of the Chief Executive

Meeting 8: Wednesday 3rd February 2016

Standard items (Matters Arising/Forward Plan/Executive Agenda/Work Programme)

Scrutiny of the Leader

Meeting 9: Thursday 16th March 2016

Standard items (Matters Arising/Forward Plan/Executive Agenda/Work Programme)

Annual PDS Report 2015/16

Bromley Youth Employment Project – Monitoring?

PDS SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS 2015/16

SUBJECT	DURATION	MEMBERSHIP
EXECUTIVE AND RESOURCES PDS		
Contracts Working Group	Appointed at the PDS meeting on 9 th July 2015 – first meeting held on 16 th September 2015. Future meetings planned for 13 th October, 10 th November and 15 th December 2015.	Cllrs Stephen Wells (Ch), Simon Fawthrop, William Huntington-Thresher, Keith Onslow and Angela Wilkins
CARE SERVICES PDS		
Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee	Three meetings scheduled each year. Met on 11 th June 2015; next meeting on 4 th November 2015	Cllrs Judi Ellis (Ch), Ruth Bennett, Mary Cooke, Ian Dunn, Hannah Gray, David Jefferys, Terence Nathan, Charles Rideout, Melanie Stevens, Pauline Tunnicliffe and all co-opted Members.
Accommodation with Care Reference Group	Appointed at the PDS meeting on 23 rd June 2015. Met on 22 nd June 2015 and 17 th August 2015.	Cllr Charles Rideout (Ch), Ruth Bennett, Diane Smith, Leslei Marks and Angela Clayton-Turner.
EDUCATION PDS		
Education Budget Sub-Committee	Five meetings scheduled each year. Last meeting on 16 th September 2015, next meeting on 20 th October 2015.	Cllrs Neil Reddin (Ch), Teresa Ball, Kathy Bance, Nicholas Bennett, Alan Collins and Ellie Harmer.
School Places Working Group	Re-appointed at the PDS meeting on 8 th July 2015.	Cllrs Judi Ellis (Ch), Kathy Bance, Nicholas Bennett, Mary Cooke, Neil Reddin, Joan McConnell, Tony Wright Jones and Mylene Williams.
School Improvement Panel	Re-appointed at the PDS meeting on 8 th July 2015, and including the remit of the former Progress of Academy Status Panel	Cllrs Mary Cooke (Ch), Teresa Ball, Nicholas Bennett, Julian Benington, Alan Collins, Neil Reddin and Darren Jenkins.
ENVIRONMENT PDS		
Grounds Maintenance Performance Management Working Group	Appointed at the PDS meetings on 17 th March and 7 th July 2015.	Cllrs William Huntington-Thresher, Sarah Phillips, Catherine Rideout and Melanie Stevens.

Budget Pressures Working Group	Appointed at the PDS meeting on 7 th July 2015.	Cllrs Kevin Brooks, David Jefferys, Angela Page and Sarah Phillips.
PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY PDS		
RENEWAL AND RECREATION PDS		
Beckenham Town Centre Working Group	Last met on 2 nd July 2015. Due to meet on 15 th October 2015.	Cllr Michael Tickner (Ch) and Beckenham ward councillors