

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA
HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE 16 JULY 2024
REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY MANAGER
SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2024/2025

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the development of the select committee's work programme clarifying priorities and areas of focus for the municipal year 2024/2025.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Select Committee members are recommended to:

- 2.1 Confirm their scrutiny priorities for the municipal year as set out in Appendix 1 which will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 July 2024.
- 2.2 Agree to develop a work programme setting out reports and items to scheduled meetings of Housing and Communities Select Committee in the next municipal year.

3. DEVELOPING THE WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

- 3.1 Housing and Communities Select Committee has a discrete remit to scrutinise the delivery, outputs and performance of Council services, the development of departmental policy, strategy and projects, and improved outcomes and satisfaction for residents and users of services, and to amplify residents' voices. The select committee also has a statutory role to review external issues of concern which affect the borough and are of concern to its residents.
- 3.2 The Select Committee develops an annual work programme which defines the areas of focus for members and their priorities for the municipal year. This focusing of work should help members to maximise their effectiveness and influence and have a defined impact, making a tangible difference to the services of the Council. ¹ While each Select Committee has its own work programme, it is also part of a single work programme for the scrutiny function which is agreed and co-ordinated by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Council's Work Programming Guidance is included as Appendix 3.
- 3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny work programme is developed at the beginning of the new municipal year. This first stage involved developing a longlist of proposals for each select committee based on inputs from members of the public, ward councillors, officers in the housing and communities departments

¹ Overview and Scrutiny Statutory Guidance for Councils (DCLG, 2019) paras 47 and 48

and Lead Members. This is attached in Appendix 2. The next stage was for members to shortlist or prioritise which was done at a workshop of Select Committee members on 10 June 2024 by considering the role of scrutiny and how it can concentrate on delivering work that is of genuine value and relevance to the Council and the borough's residents. The statutory guidance acknowledges that prioritisation and work programming is one of the most important but challenging areas for scrutiny.² The shortlist of priorities, as they were discussed at the work programming workshop on 17 June, are set out in Appendix 1.

- 3.4 Members of the Select Committee should note that items for the first meeting of the municipal year on 9 July 2024 were developed by the chair and vice-chair in consultation with senior officers in the department. The substantive items will include a report on safeguarding and key performance information.
- 3.5 The priorities of the Select Committee will be agreed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 17 July 2024. This is to ensure the co-ordination of a single work programme, identification of cross-cutting issues, and avoiding duplication across Select Committees. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee can determine joint working between the Select Committees. After the priorities for the Select Committees are agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the final stage will be for Housing and Communities Select Committee to develop a detailed work programme allocating reports to meetings.
- 3.6 In partnership with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee there will also be scrutiny of the council's Budget 2025/2026, including the departmental budgets for housing and communities, by the Housing and Communities Select Committee.
- 3.7 Scrutiny of items related to the Grenfell tragedy takes place through the overarching Overview and Scrutiny Committee and through all four Select Committees in line with their terms of reference. The Housing and Communities Select Committee is expected to give consideration to including a Grenfell-related item as part of its detailed work programme during the municipal year.
- 3.8 While developing the detailed proposal the Select Committee should also build in capacity to accommodate any priority issues that might arise. If the Select Committee is proposed to set up a working group, it will need to consider the ultimate impact it can achieve, approaches to inquiries, and trade-offs in the pace or length of an inquiry and the quality of evidence in the time available.
- 3.9 The Select Committee has five scheduled meetings for the new municipal year on the following dates:
 - 16 July 2024
 - 12 September 2024
 - 10 December 2024

² Ibid, para 57

- 28 January 2025
- 2 April 2025

4 MONITORING THE WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

- 4.1 Work programming is iterative. The Select Committee keeps its work programme under review and makes adjustments as required if priority issues emerge during the municipal year. The updated work programme is still expected to balance holding the Leadership Team to account through pre-decision scrutiny and post-decision review of outcomes and objectives with reviewing the development of new policy, and the emergence of new Key Decisions.
- 4.2 As well as developing the work programme setting out the focus for meetings there will also be the development of a schedule of visits which will support the priorities of the work programme and will help members to better understand the delivery and operation of key departmental services in the borough.

5 MEETING 16 JULY 2024

- 5.1 In addition to agreeing a proposal on its own Work Programme, at the Committee meeting the Select Committee will review:
- Leaseholder charges for Major Works

FOR DISCUSSION

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

[Housing and Social Investment Scene Setting \(002\).pdf](#)

[Communities Background Report.pdf](#)