

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>PRINCIPAL SELECT COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>15 NOVEMBER 2023</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>SELECT WORK PROGRAMME</b>
<b>Executive Lead Member:</b>	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>
<b>Ward/s:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Subject to Call-In:</b>	<b>NO</b>

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to present the Principal Select Committee with an update regarding progress against the select work programme 2023-24. Members are also asked to provide some further details to some items on the select work programme to inform the review process. Finally, Members are asked to consider any additional topics to be added to the select work programme.

### **Recommendation(s)**

The Principal Select Committee is recommended to:

- a. Review the progress made to date against the select work programme 2023-24.
- b. Consider any additional topics to be added to the select work programme.

### **Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

Established in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, it is the responsibility of the Principal Select Committee to maintain overview and management of the select work programme.

### **Alternative Options Considered**

No alternative options have been considered. Managing the select work programme is a key responsibility of the Principal Select Committee as set out in the Constitution.

### **Detailed Information**

Please see below the select work programme 2023-24.

## SELECT WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24

Topic	Rationale/Description	Update	Lead Committee/Approach
<p style="text-align: center;">Ashfield District Council – 50 Year Anniversary</p>	<p>Ashfield was formed in April 1974 with the merger of the urban districts of Hucknall, Kirkby in Ashfield, Sutton in Ashfield, and rural areas. In 2024, Ashfield will celebrate its 50 Year Anniversary. Select Committee Members would like to explore how the Council can recognise this milestone.</p>	<p>This item was included on the agenda for the September 2023 meeting of the Principal Select Committee. Members took part in a detailed discussion and agreed on a list of ideas that will be sent forward to the Council’s Senior Management Team and Civic Office.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Principal Select Committee Review</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Damp and Mould</p>	<p>Damp and mould in both private rented and social housing has been under the spotlight for some time, with mainstream media running campaigns highlighting and naming landlords in regular news bulletins. The Council have recognised a significant increase in contact from customers requesting inspections and reporting damp and mould. Members are looking to work with the appropriate Officers to understand and contribute to the Council’s policies and procedures regarding damp and mould.</p>	<p>This item has been reviewed by the Inward Focus Select Committee over the past months. The Committee has held two meetings on this topic and welcomed collaboration from the Assistant Director of Housing Operations and the Team Manager for Environmental Health (Residential).</p> <p>Members have had opportunity to review the developing draft Damp and Mould Policy and a guidance document produced for tenants on damp and mould related issues. The Committee provided feedback on both documents and the processes the Council undertakes tackling damp and mould issues.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Inward Focus Select Committee Review</p>

<p>Christmas Lights</p>	<p>The Council's contract for Christmas Lights in the District is approaching renewal. Members would like to undertake a wholesale review of the Council's provision and understand and contribute to the requirements within any new contract.</p>	<p>This item is under review by the Outward Focus Select Committee. The Committee has held one meeting so far, welcoming attendance from the Assistant Director of Regeneration who explained to Committee the Council's current position relating to Christmas lights provision as well as future plans for procuring an updated provision.</p> <p>The topic will return to the Outward Focus Select Committee's agenda in the New Year as the Council looks to secure a new provision of Christmas lights following the end of the previous contract. Members will provide feedback on this process to assist in guiding the provision for years to come.</p>	<p>Outward Focus Select Committee Review</p>
<p>Homeless Prevention Strategy</p>	<p>Members are set to take part in the consultation process for the Council's developing Homeless Prevention Strategy 2024-2029.</p>	<p>This item was added as an opportunity for Members to take part in the consultation process for the developing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Prevention Strategy 2024-2029. The Outward Focus Select Committee held a meeting in October 2023 and welcomed attendance from the Housing Strategy Lead Officer who delivered a detailed presentation to Members covering homelessness and rough sleeping.</p> <p>Members used the opportunity to hold a question and answer session and provided feedback on the key priorities set out within the developing strategy.</p>	<p>Outward Focus Select Committee Consultation</p>

<p>General Waste Bins</p>	<p>Members agreed it would be beneficial to scrutinise the Council's general waste bins, including the criteria for household eligibility for larger capacity waste bins. Members would also like to understand how the Council encourages recycling and composting waste to reduce the amount of general waste needing disposal.</p>	<p><b>This item has yet to be considered by any Select Committee. The Principal Select Committee is asked to consider the most appropriate method to proceed with this topic, including what information and evidence is needed.</b></p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>Universal Credit</p>	<p>Members of the former Overview and Scrutiny Committee conducted a review of the Impact of Universal Credit in 2020. Members are also aware that the various impacts continue to be felt and monitored by the Council, and would like to extend an invitation to the appropriate Executive Lead Member(s) to provide an update on</p>	<p>The Executive Lead Member for Social Housing and Assets, along with the Assistant Director of Housing Management, will be in attendance at the November 2023 meeting of the Principal Select Committee to provide Members with an update in relation to universal credit as requested by the Committee.</p>	<p>Principal Select Committee – Executive Lead Member Update</p>
<p>Funding Programme Updates</p>	<p>Members of the Principal Select Committee would like to extend an invitation to the appropriate Executive Lead Member(s) to provide an update on the Council's many projects underway through secured funding.</p>	<p><b>This item has yet to be considered by the Principal Select Committee. It is intended for an invitation to be extended to the Executive Lead Member for Growth, Regeneration, and Local Planning to attend a meeting of the Committee in the New Year. Members are asked to identify exactly what information they would like the Executive Lead Member to provide to the Committee at this time.</b></p>	<p>Principal Select Committee – Executive Lead Member Update</p>
<p>Parks and Green Spaces on New Estates</p>	<p>Members have expressed an interest in exploring the upkeep of parks and green spaces on new estates. This includes the relationship the Council maintains with developers and estate management companies to ensure these spaces are maintained long-term.</p>	<p><b>This item has yet to be considered by any Select Committee. The Principal Select Committee is asked to consider the most appropriate method to proceed with this topic, including what information and evidence is needed.</b></p>	<p>TBD</p>

<p>No Mow May</p>	<p>Members discussed the recent ‘No Mow May’ initiative and recognised the benefits of the initiative. However, Members did raise some concerns over the wider impacts, including road safety. Members would like to receive assurances for similar future plans that steps will be taken to ensure safety.</p>	<p>In recent months, the Vice Chair of the Principal Select Committee undertook a desktop review of recent ‘No Mow May’ campaigns took part in by the Council – exploring the purpose and successes of the campaigns, as well as identifying any issues relating. A meeting was held with the Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods who provided further context on the campaigns and the challenges faced by the Council.</p> <p>An update report was delivered by the Vice Chair to the Principal Select Committee in September 2023, where Members agreed a set of recommendations to be presented to Cabinet in the New Year ahead of the next campaign.</p>	<p>Principal Select Committee – Member led desktop review.</p>
<p>Performance</p>	<p>The Principal Select Committee considers Council performance quarterly to inform work programme topic selection and provide feedback on performance indicators.</p>	<p>To be considered by the Principal Select Committee in line with wider corporate performance reports.</p>	<p>Principal Select Committee - Standing item – quarterly.</p>
<p>Crime and Disorder</p>	<p>Crime and disorder is considered either annually as a one-off meeting of the Principal Select Committee or through review work undertaken by the Inward Focus Select Committee or Outward Focus Select Committee.</p>	<p>To be considered as part of a standalone item or as part of a related review being undertaken by any Select Committee.</p>	<p>TBD</p>

Budget	Budget is considered annually by the Principal Select Committee in line with the annual budget and tax setting process.	To be considered in line with the Council's wider budget and tax setting process in the New Year.	Principal Select Committee - Standing item – annually.
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## **SELECTING NEW WORK PROGRAMME TOPICS**

Scrutiny is a member led function, driven by Member commitment to improve services and the lives of residents. Committee Members are asked to consider the following potential sources (among others) of suitable work programme topics:

- Issues of community concern
- Service delivery concerns
- Council outcomes, objectives, and priorities
- Partnership objectives
- The Forward Plan
- Peer challenge outcomes
- Performance
- Emerging policy and legislation

When approving work programme topics, Members are asked to use effective processes to select topics that will contribute towards the best and most effective programme. This means having clear terms of reference in mind and considering many different sources of information to help inform topic selection.

This involves approving items to the work programme:

- Of community concern
- With defined objectives and clear outcomes
- That add value to the Council's performance and/or service delivery
- That contribute to the Council's Corporate Priorities

Members should also avoid including items on the work programme that are unsuitable for review for different factors that could include topics that are:

- Unmanageable
- Purely for informational purposes
- Have limited anticipated outcomes
- Fail to add value to service delivery
- Fail to improve community wellbeing and quality of life.

Finally, the Council's scrutiny function has limited time and resources, meaning the work programme must be manageable. It is not possible to include every topic suggested through work programme consultation. Effective long-listing and short-listing of topics is critical to the success of the function.

### **Implications**

#### **Corporate Plan:**

In managing the select work programme, the Principal Select Committee is mindful of the Corporate Plan and the priorities set out within. Review topics are selected that align with these priorities.

#### **Legal:**

There are no direct legal implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

## **Finance:**

There are no direct financial implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

<b>Budget Area</b>	<b>Implication</b>
General Fund – Revenue Budget	N/A
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	

## **Risk:**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Failure to appropriately manage the select work programme.	The select work programme is regularly added as an item to the agenda of the Principal Select Committee to enable management and review as necessary.

## **Human Resources:**

There are no direct HR implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

## **Environmental/Sustainability:**

There are no direct environmental or sustainability implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

## **Equalities:**

There are no direct equalities implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

## **Other Implications:**

There are no other implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

## **Reason(s) for Urgency**

None.

## **Reason(s) for Exemption**

None.



## **Background Papers**

None.

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