

Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Background

The remit of the Committee is defined in the Constitution (Article 9.5.3). It is responsible for the scrutiny of:

- The economy of Essex
- Economic development and regeneration
- Employment related Skills and apprenticeships
- Strategic Highways and transportation
- Heritage, Culture and the Arts
- Tourism
- Country Parks and other green assets
- Library services
- Broadband and public communications infrastructure
- Planning
- Environmental services
- Community Safety (not Domestic Violence or Youth Offending Team)
- Emergency Planning
- Waste and recycling
- Energy and emissions reduction
- Trading standards
- Housing
- Gypsies and travellers

Work so far

Since Full Council on 25 May 2021, the Committee has organised three informal induction sessions. These have included discussions with the relevant Cabinet Members on their portfolio and key responsibilities, key challenges being faced, and suggestions for where scrutiny can help. At the time of publication, one of these sessions was still to take place.

Thursday 24 June 2021:

General induction including work planning principles

Tuesday 6 July 2021:

Cllr Lee Scott (Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport)

Cllr Lesley Wagland (Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning)

Cllr Graham Butland (Devolution, Art, Heritage and Culture)

Wednesday 21 July 2021:

Cllr Malcolm Buckley (Waste Reduction and Recycling)

These sessions will inform the work programme going forward. A summary of the issues and emerging priorities discussed so far is included below.

<u>Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport</u>	<u>Economic Renewal, Infrastructure and Planning</u>	<u>Devolution, Art, Heritage and Culture</u>	<u>Waste Reduction and Recycling</u>
Local Highway Panels (funding, effectiveness, remit)	Request for further presentation given the scope of the portfolio to include 'Anchor Institutions' and plans for 'Investment Fund for Growth'	Attracting inward investment (and the role of arts and heritage in this)	TBC following 21 July session
Home-to-School Transport <i>suggest referral to the Scrutiny Board as this crosses the remit of PSCs</i>		Maintenance and expansion of heritage sites	
E-Scooters <i>this is a national trial so any work should be in that context</i>		Trading Standards (current performance and further improvements)	

Members-led pothole scheme (funding, continuation, extension of the scheme)		Sustainability of country parks	
Potholes (timings, reporting process, member reporting, role of parish councils)		Opportunities for further devolution <i>suggest referral to the Scrutiny Board as this crosses the remit of PSCs</i>	

There are also some additional legacy/loose-ends from before and immediately after the County Council elections which may also be considered for the work programme. These include Waste and Recycling (future service delivery), Bus Back Better proposals, Minerals Local Plan, Active Travel and Housing Strategies.

Next Steps

It is proposed that Members note the work undertaken to this point and the emerging priorities. These priorities and other issues raised during the recent discussions will be further developed into an initial work programme by the Chairman and Vice Chairmen over the coming weeks. The outcomes of this will be presented to the Committee for consideration at its 23 September 2021 meeting.