
**Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee –
28th September, 2022**

Report of the Lead for Law and Governance

Public Forum

Purpose

1. To consider the ongoing arrangements for the engagement of members of the public and partner organisations in the work of this Committee.

Recommendation

2. That the Lead for Law and Governance, following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, be authorised to invite any members of the public or representatives of partner organisations to future meetings where they have a specific interest or specialist knowledge in relation to Climate Change and environmental issues.

Background

3. Pursuant to the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules, as set out in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, all Scrutiny Committees have a 'Public Forum' agenda item at each meeting. This is to allow members of the public to ask questions on any matter falling within the terms of reference of the Scrutiny Committee. The way in which the Public Forum session is conducted is at the discretion of the Chair of the meeting.

4. The Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules also provide that a Scrutiny Committee may invite local residents, partner organisations, stakeholders and Members and Officers in other parts of the public sector to attend the Committee, discuss issues of local concern and/or answer questions. This is an alternative, more flexible, approach to the appointment of formal Co-opted Members, which would require approval of Full Council. In addition, formally appointed Co-opted Members are required to sign the Members' Code of Conduct and comply with its requirements.
5. Following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, it is proposed to adopt a flexible and open approach to maximise opportunities to achieve public and partner engagement in the work of this Committee. Residents or representatives of partner organisations with a specific interest in the Committee's work may be given a standing invitation to attend meetings and speak on any agenda items, at the discretion of the Chair. The Public Forum agenda item will be retained to afford any residents the opportunity to raise general issues within the terms of reference of the Committee. These arrangements will be kept under ongoing review.
6. The Council's scrutiny arrangements are set out in Part 2, Article 6 of the Constitution (Overview and Scrutiny). The associated Scrutiny Procedure Rules are contained within Part 4 of the Constitution which also contains the terms of reference for the Council's Scrutiny Committees.

Finance

7. The costs of operating the scrutiny arrangements will be contained within existing budgetary allocations.

Law

8. Scrutiny Committees are established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which was adopted under the Local Government Act 2000, subsequent legislation and associated Regulations and Guidance.

Risk Management

9. The Council is committed to adopting best practice in its management of risk. It aims to ensure risk is maintained at an acceptable level to maximise opportunities and demonstrate that it has given full consideration of the implications of risk to the delivery and achievement of its outcomes, strategic aims and priorities.

Equality Impact

11. Provision exists within the Council's scrutiny arrangements for overview and scrutiny of the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

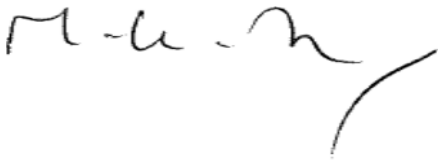
12. The Council's scrutiny functions are administered within the resources available to the Democratic Services Team with support from Directorates and other Officers as required.

Commercial/Procurement

13. Individual items included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme may have commercial implications, which will be reported at the relevant Committee meeting.

Council Priorities and Projects

14. Dudley operates a One Council ethos to build an effective and dynamic organisation aligned to its three core priorities to grow the economy and create jobs; create a cleaner and greener place and support stronger and safer communities.
15. Items within the Annual Scrutiny Programme and the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee will contribute to the delivery of key Council priorities including the Borough Vision, Council Plan and Future Council Programme.



Mohammed Farooq
Lead for Law and Governance
(Monitoring Officer)

Report Author: Steve Griffiths/Gemma Gray
Telephone No. 01384 815238
Email – democratic.services@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Documents

[The Council's Constitution](#) – Part 4 – Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules