

Report to Stronger Place Select Committee

Date of meeting: 23rd September 2021



Portfolio:

Subject: Stronger Place Select Committee Terms of Reference

Officer contact for further information: Nick Dawe

Democratic Services Officer: Laura Kirman

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- 1 To consider the content of the report and, if appropriate, provide recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny for changes to the terms of reference of the select committee**
- 2 To propose items for the work programme for the Stronger Place Select Committee 2021/22**

Report:

1. In response to members feedback at the Stronger Place Select Committee (22 June 2021) on the terms of reference and the work programme of the Committee a report was drawn up and presented to Overview & Scrutiny Chairmen & Vice-Chairmen on 22 July 2021. The terms of reference for this report and minutes for this item attached as Appendix A & B respectively. It was agreed that this should be progressed.
2. This report offers members of this Select Committee a further opportunity to consider and comment of the proposed draft terms of reference (Appendix A) and work programme.
3. It should be noted that it is the prerogative of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agree changes to a select committee's Terms of Reference.

Reason for decision: To provide recommendations for consideration at Overview and Scrutiny

Options considered and rejected:

Consultation undertaken:

Resource implications:

Legal and Governance Implications: None

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications: None

Background Papers:

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

Equality:

APPENDIX A

STRONGER PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE – DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE 2021/22

Definition of Stronger “Place” Select (Scrutiny) Committee

To consider Epping Forest District as a physical Place and to scrutinise the direction, policies and projects of the executive that affect the spatial and infrastructure requirements of the Epping Forest District.

Examples include the Local Plan and supplementary infrastructure policies, as well as house building (for all ages and including affordability), roads, transport (sustainable, together with provision for electric vehicles, bus services, cycling and walking).

Air quality as it affects residents of Epping Forest District as well as the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation. Taxis and public hire vehicles.

Health infrastructure, GP surgeries, schools and FE & HE services.

Green Infrastructure, trees, walking routes including public rights of way.

To consider the effect of Government actions or initiatives that affect the Select Committee.

The Committees Areas of Responsibility (Scope)

To consider the impact on customers, residents, businesses and visitors to our District, and to respond to consultation activities.

Sources of Information

Epping Forest DC Corporate Plan 2018-2023

Local Plan Submission Version, including Main Modifications.

Departmental Business Plans

Cabinet Corporate Aims and Objective 2021/22

Cabinet Work Programme 1 July to 31 October 2021

Key Objectives

1. To develop a work programme each year that effectively scrutinises the areas of responsibility outlined above.
2. To engage in policy review and development, with a focus on improvement and how this can be best achieved.
3. To consider any matter referred by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet or a Portfolio Holder and to make recommendations as appropriate.
4. To establish working groups and task and finish panels to undertake any activity within the terms of reference.
5. To undertake pre-scrutiny through the review of specific proposals of the Council and its partner organisations or other local service providers to help develop policy.

6. To engage with the community and encourage community engagement.
7. District Wide Management Contracts and provide scrutiny of services that are not performing to standard and develop proposals for their improvement.
8. To monitor and review relevant projects and associated closure and benefits reports.

To provide scrutiny for the following corporate projects:

1. Local Plan Delivery, Infrastructure Delivery Plan, S106 Agreements, associated parking
2. Epping Centre Development - St. Johns Road
3. North Weald airfield development (including master-planning)
4. Council Housebuilding
5. Economic growth, skills and employment
6. District Wide Waste Management Provision
7. District Wide Leisure Services Development

To have overview of the green agenda – helping to inform policy and future proofing the Place.

APPENDIX B

Minutes Joint Meeting of Overview & Scrutiny Chairmen & Vice-Chairmen Thursday, 22 July 2021, item 7 b.

Select Committees – Terms of Reference and work programmes

N Dawe briefly outlined the proposed Terms of Reference of the Stronger Place Select Committee, the aim of which was to clarify the areas and issues that were believed to go to “Place” and the issues and methodologies that might be scrutinised and understood. It was to ensure members had up to date information and progress on all areas of “Place” so that they could focus on areas of concern and/or success. It would also allow members to measure if projects were worthwhile by ensuring the post event delivery of expected benefits. However, a process was currently underway to validate a list of projects that could be scrutinised.

Councillor A Lion, Chairman of Stronger Place, reported that at the first meeting on 22 June 2021, members were concerned that the select committee should be member-led and were keen to understand how “Place” worked and what this meant, its scope and where the information came from. It also encompassed the localisation of services that the Council might influence, such as the demand responsive travel bus and EV charging points.

Members voiced the following comments:

- It was a very long set of Terms of Reference;
- Less detail was needed to give more flexibility; and
- It was a useful starting point for training rather than a Terms of Reference;

The Chairman, Councillor M Sartin advised that the Council had no absolute right to scrutinise the health infrastructure, as these areas came under the County Council. Overview and Scrutiny was never able to scrutinise the Sixth Form Consortium, although it affected the District’s residents and similarly, nothing had materialised with scrutinising New City College despite G Blakemore, Chief Executive, and J L Dixon, Learning and Talent Business Partner, visiting the College Principal.

N Dawe suggested having a factorial dialogue with an organisation first as this could be done constructively. Moreover, it might be useful if members were informed of the LGA councillor workbooks weblink because this general scrutiny advice would lead members to becoming more specific on scrutinising Council issues in front of them. He would work on this with G Woodhall.

G Woodhall advised that it was the prerogative of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agree changes to a select committee’s Terms of Reference.

Agreed:

- (9) That N Dawe and G Woodhall would progress this with the Chairman of Stronger Place Select Committee.