

Prioritising Scrutiny Review Topics – Scoring Matrix

It is anticipated that there will be many topics suggested to be the subject of Scrutiny reviews and to the people that suggested them they will be the most important subject to be considered, however this cannot be a way to prioritise review topics. In order to manage the workload more effectively, there can only be one scrutiny review to be run concurrently with the working party activities at any one time.

In order to ensure fairness Democratic Services have created a framework that all suggested topics should be scored against. This will ensure that all topics are treated fairly and make the reasoning behind the order in which Scrutiny Reviews are undertaken clear and transparent.

The framework contains four criteria that each topic suggestion will be scored against. Democratic Services in conjunction with the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel will then score the topic on each of these criteria out of 20 giving a total score out of 80. The scores are then forwarded to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) for approval and to assist them in the planning of resource allocation to the suggestions made. The list will then be sent to the Chair for their information.

The four criteria will be:

- Is the topic related to a priority within the Council's Corporate Plan?

Yes – The topic directly relates to one of the three Priorities or three Values – 20 points;

Partially – The topic can be related to one of the three Priorities or three Values – 10 points;

No – The topic doesn't relate to one of the three Priorities or three Values – 0 points.

- Is the topic of high public concern?

Yes – the matter is of high public concern, it is a public facing service and it has been the subject of questions/petitions at Council in the last two months and/or a group or representative group have been in touch with the Chair of the Panel regarding this issue. – 20 points;

Partially – The matter is of some public concern, it is a public facing service, but hasn't been the subject of questions/petitions at Council in the last two months and/or a member of the public has been in touch with the Chair of the Panel regarding this issue. – 10 points;

No – The matter is not of public concern, it relates to back office function and has not been the subject of recent public comment – 0 points.

- Is the topic currently underperforming as per the Council's performance monitoring?

Yes – the performance indicator is currently red – 20 points;

Partially – the performance indicator is currently orange – 10 points;

No – the performance indicator is currently green – 0 points.

- Will the topic result in recommendations that save that Council money or generate income?

Yes – There is definitely scope for recommendations as a result of the review for the Council to save money or generate income – 20 points;

Maybe – There is potentially scope for recommendations as a result of the review for the Council to save money or generate income;- 10 points;

No – The suggested topic is not about a topic that could result in monetary savings or income generation – 0 points.

The Scoring Table

Each suggested topic will then be entered into a table with their score, the higher the score the higher up the table that topic will be and the sooner that topic will be undertaken. This table will be included in the work programming report at every Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting to allow the panel to see what topics will be considered next. Democratic Services will also recheck the scores each time the work programming report is created in order to ensure that the scores reflect the time each suggestion has been on the list.

A copy of the scoring table is shown on the following page.

In addition to the scoring table Democratic Services will also include the following summary table in each work programming report. This allows the Panel to see the progress of the current scrutiny review.