

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL 25 OCTOBER 2018

STARRED ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MINUTES

AUDIT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 24 SEPTEMBER 2018

3. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of 7 June 2018, there had been circulated copies of the Scrutiny Work Programme with suggestions for future Scrutiny reviews to be approved by Council. The Clerk to the Council, Ms Wilkinson, advised that Item No. 5 'Information provided to Members in reports', would be removed from the Programme as this would be included in the Review of the Scheme of Administration which would be subject to a report to full Council. The Committee requested that Item No. 1 the review on 'Councillors' role in staff matters' also included training given to officers and the monitoring of decisions of staff disciplinary hearings and employment tribunals. Members also discussed whether Item No. 3 'The Impact of Brexit' should be considered by the Audit & Scrutiny Committee or whether this would be better considered at full Council.

VOTE

Councillor Scott, seconded by Councillor Richards, moved that Item No. 3, 'Impact of Brexit on the Scottish Borders' be removed from the Scrutiny Work Programme.

Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Thornton-Nicol, moved that it remain on the Scrutiny Work Programme.

On a show of hands Members voted as follows:

<i>Motion</i>	-	3
<i>Amendment</i>	-	2

The Motion was accordingly carried.

DECISION

(a) AGREED:

(i) the Scrutiny Work Programme 2018/19 as detailed in the Appendix to this Minute; and

* (ii) to recommend approval to Council of the Scrutiny Work programme as detailed in the Appendix to the Minute.

(b) NOTED that additional items could be added to the Scrutiny Work Programme as appropriate.

Scrutiny Work Programme 2018/19

	Review subject	Outcome/Lead Officer
1	Councillors' Role in staff matters	Presentation giving an update on the role, guidance and training given to Councillors and Officers on staff disciplinary appeals and employment tribunals, and the monitoring of these decisions. (Lead Officer(s): Clair Hepburn, Service Director HR and Iain Davidson, Employee Relations Manager).
2	Amey – Trunk Roads Management	Presentation from Amey Scotland on trunk roads management. (Lead Officer: Martin Joyce, Service Director Assets & Infrastructure & David Girdler, Chief Officer – Roads).
3	ALEOs and Live Borders	Briefing on the performance monitoring process through the Major Contracts Governance Group. (Lead Officer: Philip Barr, Executive Director).
4	Co-wheels contact	Presentation on the Co-wheels contract (Lead Officer: David Robertson, Chief Financial Officer).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 2 OCTOBER 2018

2. DYSLEXIA POLICY

With reference to paragraph 15 of the Executive Committee Minute of 19 June 2018, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director Children and Young People seeking approval for a new Dyslexia Policy. The Quality Improvement Manager explained that the identification of literacy difficulties including dyslexia was an area of concern for staff, pupils and parents. Parents had raised concerns regarding the 'diagnosis or labelling' of dyslexia. The Policy provided a very clear and robust framework based on national guidance and advice and offered support for schools and parents in this difficult area. The purpose of this guidance was to set out policy in this area and to ensure that all staff were aware of their responsibilities and roles to support children and young people who had, or may have had, dyslexia. This involved the identification of dyslexia in a timely fashion and the provision of timely effective adaptations and interventions (including technological solutions). A comprehensive toolkit had been developed to support the implementation of the Policy in schools. The draft Policy was attached as an Appendix to the report. In the ensuing discussion, Members welcomed this policy which they recognised as being long-awaited. In response to questions about timescales around diagnosis and associated expectations of parents, it was stressed that there was no one test for dyslexia and due to different interventions it was difficult to put a timeframe on this. However the communication to parents was that this Policy would facilitate earlier diagnosis by P3/P4 rather than having to wait until secondary school stage.

DECISION

*

AGREED to recommend to Council adoption of the Dyslexia Policy (2018).