

## SCRUTINY TOPIC SELECTION CRITERIA

### Criteria for Selecting Scrutiny Topics

- **PUBLIC INTEREST:** The concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen for scrutiny;
- **ABILITY TO CHANGE:** Priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence, and which will result in a Cabinet decision being taken;
- **PERFORMANCE:** Priority should be given to the areas in which the Council, and other agencies, are not performing well;
- **EXTENT:** Priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or large parts of the city;
- **REPLICATION:** Work programmes must take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort.

### Reasons to Reject Scrutiny Topics

- The issue is already being addressed / being examined elsewhere and change is imminent
- The top would be better addressed elsewhere (and will be referred there)
- Scrutiny involvement would have limited / no impact upon outcomes
- The topic may be sub-judice or prejudicial to the Council's interest
- The topic is too broad to make a review realistic
- New legislation or guidance relating to the topic is expected within the next year
- The top area is currently subject to inspection or has recently undergone substantial change

### Defining Scrutiny Topics

For every item on the work programme / new referral, it should be clear:

- What is the issue / activity / project under consideration?
  - *A brief outline of the matter being referred / the question being asked*
- What is Scrutiny being asked to do?
  - *e.g. undertake a full review of the subject? Investigate / interrogate different policy options? Be consulted of final proposals before decision making? Monitor outcomes / implementation?*

- What are the reasons for / expected benefits of involving Scrutiny in this matter?
- Is there a specific deadline for this piece of work?