

DRAFT Trafford SCRUTINY TOPIC ASSESSMENT - SELECTION CRITERIA

1.0 Defining Scrutiny Topics

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

- What is the issue / activity / project under consideration?
 1. A brief outline of the matter being referred / the question being asked - What is Scrutiny being asked to do?
 2. e.g. undertake a full review of the subject? Investigate / interrogate different policy options? Be consulted on 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?

1.1 Topic Selection Criteria

The topic should meet at least one of the following:

- Improvements for local people likely.
- Community/Corporate priority area.
- Key issue for the public.
- Poor performing service.
- High level of dissatisfaction.

2.0 Topic Rejection Criteria

The topic should not meet any of the following:

- The issue is already being addressed / being examined elsewhere and change is imminent
- The topic 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 topic area is currently subject to inspection or has recently undergone substantial change
- Simply for information.

3.0 Scoring

Each topic is scored for Importance and Impact on a scale of 1-4 using a scoring guide. (Scoring Topic Assessment Template attached for information).

Importance – how well a topic fits with the Council’s key aims and priorities.

Impact – likely potential impact of outcomes from a scrutiny investigation of the topic in terms of community benefit.

4.0 **Scoring Guide**

Importance

- 1 Some evidence that the topic is linked to the Council’s key aims and priorities but only indirectly.
- 2 Good evidence linking topic to Council’s aims but not to Council’s current priorities.
- 3 Good evidence linking topic to Council’s key aims and priorities.
- 4 Strong evidence linking topic to Council’s key aims and priorities.

Impact

- 1 Minor potential benefits or benefits affecting only one ward/customer/client group
- 2 Minor potential benefits affecting two or more wards/customer/client groups or, moderate potential benefits affecting only one ward/customer/client group.
- 3 Moderate potential benefits affecting more than one ward/customer/client group, or Substantial potential benefits affecting one or more ward/customer/client group.
- 4 Substantial potential benefits community wide or for a significant proportion or section of the community.

Appendix

- 2 Scrutiny Topic Assessment Template

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SCRUTINY TOPIC

ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

SCRUTINY TOPIC SELECTION ASSESSMENT

TOPIC:	
SUGGESTED BY:	DATE:

STEP 1: REJECTION CRITERIA MUST NOT MEET ANY OF THESE:		STEP 2: SELECTION CRITERIA MUST MEET ONE OF THESE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Already being addressed		<input type="checkbox"/> Improvements for local people likely	
<input type="checkbox"/> Matter subjudice or prejudicial to Council's interests		<input type="checkbox"/> Community Strategy/Corporate priority area	
<input type="checkbox"/> Specific case falling within complaints procedure		<input type="checkbox"/> Key issue for public	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual disciplinary or grievance matter		<input type="checkbox"/> Poor performing service	
<input type="checkbox"/> Unlikely to result in improvements for local people		<input type="checkbox"/> High level of dissatisfaction	
Select	Reject	Select	Reject

STEP 3: PRIORITISE

SCORING GUIDE

IMPORTANCE SCORE INDICATOR		IMPACT SCORE INDICATOR	
Score 0	No evidence that topic is related to the Council's key aims and priorities. Reject	Score 0	No potential benefits likely to result. Reject
1	Some evidence that topic linked to the Council's key aims and priorities but only indirectly.	1	Minor potential benefits or benefits affecting only one ward/customer/client group
2	Good evidence linking topic to Council's key aims but not to Council's current priorities	2	Minor potential benefits affecting two or more wards/customer/client groups or, Moderate potential benefits affecting one ward/customer/client group.
3	Good evidence linking topic to Council's key aims and priorities	3	Moderate potential benefits affecting more than one ward/customer/client group or, Substantial potential benefits affecting one or more ward/customer/client groups
4	Strong evidence linking topic to Council's key aims and priorities	4	Substantial potential benefits community wide or for a significant proportion or section of the community.
See attached for Council's key aims and priorities			

Outcome:
Date:

Topic priority guide			
Score 1-4	Reject topic		
Score 5-6	Possible topic for scrutiny		
Score 7-8	Priority topic for scrutiny		
Outcome:	<input type="checkbox"/> Select	<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve List	<input type="checkbox"/> Reject

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