

From: Anna Taylor, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: **Scrutiny Committee – 15 December 2021**

Subject: Short Focused Inquiries - Work Programme

Classification: **Unrestricted**

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**Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to prioritise the suggestions, put forward by Members, for Short Focused Inquiries (SFIs) and to ask the Scrutiny Committee to agree a work programme. The work programme will be reviewed on a 6 monthly basis.

**Recommendation:**

That the Scrutiny Committee agree:

- a. the work programme for short focused inquiries and set out the priority order; and
- b. delegate to Officers the arrangement of the next inquiry as outlined in the report.

**1. Introduction**

- a) Following the move to Short Focused Inquiries, allowing members to carry out topic reviews using virtual meetings and over a shorter period of time the following SFIs have taken place:
  - i. [Visitor Economy in Kent](#)
  - ii. [The Farming Economy](#).
  - iii. Home to School Transport (still in progress)
- b) These Inquiries resulted in recommendations to the Leader and relevant Cabinet Member requiring a response within two months of receipt. Responses to both Inquiries have been circulated to the Scrutiny Committee and [published on our website](#).
- c) All Members of the Council were asked if there were topics they would like to put forward for possible inclusion on the SFI work programme and those received are listed below.

**2. Suggested Topics**

- a) Suggestions which have been put forward for SFIs, any additional information relevant to the discussion will be supplied in advance of the meeting:
  - i. Section 106 contributions – monitoring process
  - ii. Diversionary/Preventative activity for young people
  - iii. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Health Inequalities
  - iv. Highways Improvement Plans (proposed for summer 2022)

### **3. Next Steps**

- a) Once the Committee has agreed the topic of the next short focused inquiry, and assigned the remainder in order of priority, work will commence on arranging the inquiry into the next topic.
- b) The proposed process, as previously, is for a background briefing to be produced for Members by the relevant directorate. Officers in Democratic Services will also scope out the issue and agree with the Chair the people from whom the Committee should hear. A limited number of informal briefings will then be arranged for Members of the Inquiry Group. Subsequent to these briefings having taken place, the Inquiry Group will need to informally discuss and agree a draft report featuring key findings and any recommendations it wishes to make. This report will then need to be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee for formal consideration. If the report and recommendations are agreed by the Scrutiny Committee, while meeting formally, the report will be submitted to the Leader and relevant Cabinet Member(s) for a response within two months.
- c) The work programme will be reviewed on a 6 monthly basis.

### **3. Recommendation:**

That the Scrutiny Committee agree:

- a. the work programme for short focused inquiries and set out the priority order; and
- b. delegate to Officers the arrangement of the next inquiry as outlined in the report.

### **4. Author Contact Details**

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## Work Programme – Short Focused Inquiries December 2021

### Priority Order

| TOPIC                    | BACKGROUND                             |
|--------------------------|--|
| Home to School Transport | Currently in progress                  |
| S106 Agreements          | Agreed by Scrutiny Committee July 2021 |
|                          |  |

Completed.

- a) [The Farming Economy](#). (final report January 2021)
- b) [Visitor Economy in Kent](#) (final report August 2020)