

Education & Business (Roving) Scrutiny Commission Workplan

Timetable

Date	Item
Meeting 1, Tuesday 10 September	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. School exclusions2. Procurement and SMEs3. Agreeing scope and work plan
Meeting 2, Monday 7 October	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. School exclusions2. Procurement and social value3. Procurement and diversity4. Agreeing additional priorities for meeting 4
Meeting 3, Monday 16 December	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Interview of Cabinet Member for Jobs, Business and Innovation2. Interview of Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Adult Care (re Education)3. Alternative provision performance
Meeting 4, additional date TBC	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Schools performance2. Additional priority item from other topics of interest/main OSC3. Agreeing additional priorities for meeting 5
Meeting 5, Tuesday 24 March	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Additional priority topic from longlist/main OSC2. Sign off school exclusions and alternative provision report3. Sign off procurement report
Meeting 6, Additional date TBC	TBC – Community event (Exclusions)

School exclusions and alternative provision

The Commission will build on work of the Southwark Youth Violence Panel and seek to understand

- the extent of permanent exclusions and quasi exclusions (e.g. forced home schooling and off-rolling) across the borough, total levels, where it is concentrated and what are the key trends
- alternative provision across the borough, its quality, its role in managing permanent exclusions and the quality of service it is providing our young people

We will explore exclusions by:

- Speaking to local school representatives, young people who have been excluded and/or their parents,
- Reviewing the prior investigations by the Council of exclusions and the extent
- Looking at best practice from beyond the borough both in terms of managing exclusions and delivering alternative provision

- Speaking to officers and the lead Cabinet member regarding what they see to be the main issues regarding current rates of exclusion in the borough and how they can move towards zero

Procurement: SMEs, social value and diversity

On SME procurement, I'd like to clarify current stats around sme procurement by protected characteristic, known issues, plans to address and additional ideas from external actors on how can further improve. Officers and relevant stakeholders - let's discuss who that is.

Southwark Council is a major procurer of services and has recently introduced a new Fairer Future Procurement Framework. We will be exploring the Council's procurement strategy with a particular focus on how accessible the Council's procurement processes are for SMEs, how well the Council's procurement approach is incorporating social value legislation and the opportunities it brings, and how well the council is at being accessible to and encouraging diversity through its procurement.

We will explore procurement by:

- Exploring current data regarding procurement performance from an SME, diversity and social value perspective
- Investigating the Council's preferred approach for incorporating social value
- Looking at examples of good practice from elsewhere in encouraging procurement from elsewhere
- Speaking to historic bidders who have experienced Southwark's procurement processes
- Reviewing the new procurement process to understand potential unintended side effects to some of the policy improvements that have recently been incorporated

Other Topics of interest to the Commission

As this is a roving Commission, the Commission will maintain bandwidth to either pick up additional topics of interest from the shortlist below, or to pick up urgent matters arising from main OSC.

- *Youth provision in Southwark*: Looking at the Council's plans to refresh youth provision across the borough
- *Race disparity in Southwark*: Conducting a race disparity audit for discrete parts of the Council as a precursor to a more in-depth exercise
- *Care leavers provision and support*: Looking at the Council's work to support care leavers via a dedicated trust and other pre-existing channels
- *Rogue landlords*: Council's use of new powers to discourage bad landlord practices
- *High streets*: Looking at the Council's work to strengthen high streets across the borough