



One Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee

6th July 2011

Report from the Director of Strategy, Partnership & Improvement

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

One Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out some options for the One Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme. These include issues raised by members at the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 2nd June 2011 and issues requested by the committee during 2010/11.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members discuss and agree a work programme for the One Council Overview & Scrutiny 2011/12

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 A well planned work programme is a critical component of a successful overview & scrutiny function. A programme of carefully selected topics can help engage the public, connect with the council's priorities, community concerns, and has the potential to add value to the work of the council. It is therefore important that this committee's work programme is developed and agreed by its members.
- 3.2 The committee can scrutinise different subject areas in different ways depending on the subject size and the depth of investigation required. This can be done by in depth task groups, issue specific meetings, or short discrete agenda items. In all cases the One Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to require the attendance of the council's Executive

and officers to answer questions at their meetings. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 also gave overview and scrutiny committees power to require information from 'relevant partner organisations'.

3.3 It is possible that the committee will have more subject areas that it would like to consider than time and resources available. To help prioritise the committee should consider the following criteria:

- Whether overview and scrutiny investigation will lead to an effective outcome / impact
- The degree of fit with corporate or community strategy priorities
- Public concern
- Stakeholder or partner concern
- Scope for efficiency gains
- Whether it duplicates other work?
- Time and resources

3.4 To help the committee put together its work programme for 2011/12 a Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee was held on 2nd June. The joint committee was formed by members of the One Council, the Partnership and Place and the Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committees. The meeting provided the opportunity for members to use the latest information from the council's evidence base to inform a work programming exercise which enable cross committee input into each of the committee's work programmes.

3.5 Committee work programming is an on-going process and the committee Chair's have requested further public events, like the One Community Many Voices event, to be held later in the year. In addition members are strongly encouraged to suggest items for review as and when they arise. Suggestions can come from;

- Ward issues that are also relevant across the borough,
- The local impact of a major national issue, for example the concerns about the impact on services of the economic climate
- Members of the public.

3.6 ***Suggested topics***

- One Council Programme Update – three per year
- Quarterly Performance and Finance information
- The impact of Housing changes both socially and financially
- Future Customer Service Project
- Procurement Project
- Sharing services with other public bodies
- Complaints Annual Report
- Annual Staff Survey
- Localism Bill – How will it be implemented, what will be the impact on each Directorate

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 None

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 None

7.0 Diversity Implications

7.1 None

8.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

8.1 None

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