



Overview & Scrutiny Committee 14th December 2006

Report from the Director of Policy & Regeneration

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Developing an Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides members with suggestions for consideration in developing the work programme of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the next 18 months.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That items identified by members be timetabled into a detailed work programme and brought back to the next meeting.

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 topic can help engage the public, connect with the council's priorities, community concerns, and will have 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 choose to scrutinise different subject areas in different ways depending on the subject size and the depth of investigation required. This can be done as in depth task groups, issue specific meeting subjects, or short discrete agenda items. In all cases the Overview & Scrutiny Committee has the ability to request information and call witnesses.
- 3.3 The committee decided on 19th October 2006 to undertake two in depth reviews via task groups. The task groups will report back to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee during the course of their work, with Overview & Scrutiny agreeing the final report and recommendations prior to sending the report to the Executive.

- 3.4 Members of the committee will have discussed the Corporate Strategy at Full Council on 27th November and tonight's meeting (14th December) with the intention of identifying subjects that can be investigated by the committee as a whole.
- 3.5 To assist with the development of the work programme a number of suggestions have been put together by officers for consideration and these are attached at appendix 1. Members will also, because of their own experience, expertise and areas of interest, have suggestions of their own.
- 3.6 It is possible that the committee will have more subject areas that it would like to consider than time and resources available. The committee may consider developing criteria for prioritisation. Criteria could include:
- Whether overview & scrutiny develop an effective outcome / impact
 - Degree of fit with corporate or community strategy priorities
 - Public concern
 - Stakeholder or partner concern
 - Scope for efficiency gains
 - Is there any duplication with other work?
 - Timing & resources
- 3.7 It is recognised that in the new Overview and Scrutiny structures this committee has a broad remit providing an overview across the organisation, dealing with cross cutting issues and providing scrutiny of partnerships and partnership working. To help the committee develop this role, a number of Overview and Scrutiny link officers have been appointed from across the organisation. These are:

Tony Hirsch	Housing & Community Care
Sue Harper	Environment & Culture
Lance Douglas	Adult Social Care
Owen Thomson	Consultation
Tracey Connage	Human Resources

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 None

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 None

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

7.1 None

Background Papers

None

Contact Officers

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