



Overview & Scrutiny Committee 28th July 2010

Report from the Director of Policy & Regeneration

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out some of the criteria the committee should consider when developing a work programme for 2010/11.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee discusses topic for overview & scrutiny work programmes for 2010/11

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 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 2010/11 a number of items follow up on previous work or are requests made by the committee during the last municipal year are set out below.

- Transforming Adult Social Care – Day Centres (continue to monitor progress)
- The use of agency staff in the council
- Safeguarding Adults Annual Report
- One Stop Shop redesign
- Neighbourhood Working Annual Report

3.5 The committee will also need to follow up on the recommendations made via task groups completed in the last municipal year. These are:

- The Climate Change task group
- Services for women in and exiting prostitution task group
- Transition services task group

3.6 Committee work programming is an on-going process and 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.

3.7 Members will be aware that a new overview & scrutiny structure will be introduced in the autumn and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will cease to exist in its current format. To ensure a wide a range of views on potential work programme topics are put forward to the new committees a survey has been sent out to all members asking for their views. In addition an event is being organised for the end September which will bring together members, partners and community groups and will provide an opportunity to bring a wide selection of issues back to the next cycle of meetings.

3.8 Once a long list has been developed the new committee should spend time deciding which to include in the work programme and which to disregard. It is important to acknowledge there isn't the time or resources to consider all issues of concern and as a result issues have to be prioritised.

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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