

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Transformation	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	11 July 2011

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2011/12

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To agree a work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2011/12

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the Lancastrian Scrutiny Task Group continue its review with the following revised membership: Councillors D Platt (Chair); A Bradley; A Hansford; K Iddon; A Lowe; J Molyneaux; S Walsh; R Russell; G Russell; and M Muncaster.
- That the NHS Reform Joint Scrutiny Task Group which is being co-ordinated and led by South Ribble Council continue to be supported and that Councillor A Cullens; P Wilson; and R Russell continue to be the Council's nominated representatives.
- That a further scrutiny review topic be selected from the options outlined in paragraph 11 and a Task Group be established to undertake the review.
- That Members agree how they would like to undertake Community Safety Scrutiny in 2011/12, in line with the information contained in paragraph 12.
- That the rest of the Overview and Scrutiny work be agreed as set out in paragraph 14 and a work programme be drawn up for the next meeting of the Committee.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Strong Family Support		Education and Jobs	
Being Healthy		Pride in Quality Homes and Clean Neighbourhoods	
Safe Respectful Communities		Quality Community Services and Spaces	
Vibrant Local Economy		Thriving Town Centre, Local Attractions and Villages	
A Council that is a consistently Top Performing Organisation and Delivers Excellent Value for Money			/

BACKGROUND

8. Each year the Overview and Scrutiny Committee looks at its work programme for the year and in particular decides on Task Group review topics. If scrutiny is to be productive it is important to structure its work and this has normally been done through a work programme which is considered by the Committee at each meeting. This report sets out each broad area of work and provides information and options for the Committee to consider for the 2011/12 work programme.

SCRUTINY TASK GROUP REVIEWS

9. At the end of 2010/11 there were two task groups which were only partway through their work. Firstly the Lancastrian Scrutiny Task Group which has met three times so far and requires a number of further meetings to complete its review. This group has a number of vacancies as a result of changes at the elections and other interested members have been recruited. It is recommended that Councillor Debra Platt takes on the Chair of this Task Group from Alan Cullens and that the new Task Group membership is as follows: Councillors D Platt (Chair); A Bradley; A Hansford; K Iddon; A Lowe; J Molyneaux; S Walsh; G Russell; R Russell; and M Muncaster.
10. The joint NHS Reform Task Group initiated and co-ordinated by South Ribble Council, had only recently started its work and because of changes following all out local elections in South Ribble, this task group is continuing but with some significant changes in their membership. Last year Chorley appointed Councillors Alan Cullens, Peter Wilson and Rosemary Russell to this group. Councillor Alan Cullens is now an Executive Member but has expressed a wish to continue on the task group. Whilst Executive Members are normally excluded from scrutiny appointments, this review is not of services delivered by the Council and if Members are in agreement, he could continue to serve on this group. It is therefore recommended that Councillors A Cullens, P Wilson and R Russell be reappointed to this group.
11. At the end of 2010/11 the following potential scrutiny review topics had been received from Members:
 - Tourism
 - Astley Hall and Park
 - Section 106
Section 106 negotiations have specific rules that are set out nationally and have to be adhered to. Further clarity would be required on what elements of S106, members would want to explore.
 - Development Control Committee
A review of planning is however, currently underway. Part of this process is to seek Members views on how the Development Control Committee can be improved. The Committee may want to wait for the outcome of this review, before making a decision on an Inquiry.

Members views on the next scrutiny review topics to be considered are sought.

COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY

12. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a duty to scrutinise the work of their local Community Safety Partnership (the Safer Chorley and South Ribble Partnership) at least once a year. In 2010/11 this was done at the very last meeting of the year on the topic of anti social behaviour. The year previously the Committee scrutinised the general work of the then newly merged partnership with South Ribble, followed by some additional sessions which were run as Member Learning Sessions with South Ribble Councillors on drug and alcohol misuse. These sessions were open to all Councillors.

13. Suggestions are invited on how community safety scrutiny should take place this year in order to incorporate it into the work programme. South Ribble have expressed an interest in further joint scrutiny of the work of the Partnership and views are requested on whether this should be further explored.

REMAINING WORK PROGRAMME

14. The remaining part of the work programme is made up of the following key elements.

14.1 Scrutiny of Executive Cabinet decisions

Members will see that the Committee in 2011/12 no longer meets a few days before the Executive Cabinet meetings but around 2 weeks after to enable the scrutiny of Executive Cabinet decisions. Scrutiny of Executive Cabinet decisions may involve asking the relevant Executive Member to attend the meeting.

14.2 Monitoring reports

These will continue to be received on a six monthly basis and include monitoring of departmental performance; key Council projects; and LSP projects.

14.3 Monitoring the implementation of Review Recommendations

The Committee will continue to receive 6 monthly reports following the Executive's response on the implementation of outcomes from scrutiny reviews. This takes place for a period of two years and therefore currently reports are still being received for the following past reviews:

- Town Centre Vitality,
- Allotments;
- Affordable Housing;
- Asset Management – the Executive's response is an item elsewhere on this agenda;
- Highways - this review is still awaiting a response from Executive Cabinet.

14.4 Budget scrutiny

At this stage, it is proposed that this will take place at the January 2012 meeting of the Committee following the Executives Cabinet's consideration of budget principles at their meeting in December.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

15. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		No significant implications in this area	/

GARY HALL DIRECTOR OF TRANSFORMATION

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
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