

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	9 July 2012

## SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To agreed a way forward for scrutiny in 2012/13 and set the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for the year.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

- To approve the following recommendations:
  - To implement a Performance Monitoring Panel as set out in paragraph 5 that would sit four times per year and as a result, to reduce the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings to six times per year.
  - That the Committee agrees topics for review this year, including crime and disorder for 2012/13,
  - That Councillor Berry be requested to report back on the work of Lancashire County Council's Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to meetings of our Overview and Scrutiny 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			√

### STRUCTURE OF SCRUTINY

- An informal meeting of the Committee was held to consider the best way forward for the scrutiny programme and some of the suggestions are contained within this report. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee develops a work programme each year and oversees the work of the Task Groups which carry out service reviews. The Committee also undertakes the scrutiny of crime and disorder related topics under its duty to scrutinise the community safety partnership and considers financial and performance information.

## PERFORMANCE MONITORING PANEL

5. In looking at how performance information can best be considered we discussed implementing a dedicated Performance Monitoring Panel consisting of around five Councillors that would meet quarterly to look at Council and the Local Strategic Partnership performance, with the relevant Executive Members attending and answering questions on their service areas. The Executive Members will be informed in advance of the meeting dates and as a result the meetings of the main Committee could be reduced to six from eight.

The Panel meetings would focus on performance issues with a small number of Members hopefully gaining some real expertise; this may in turn generate future scrutiny review topics.

6. If the proposal is accepted by the Committee, the dates of the two meetings could be as follows:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Performance Monitoring Panel
9 July 2012	23 July 2012
3 September 2012	17 September 2012
1 October 2012	10 December 2012
5 November 2012	11 March 2013
14 January 2013	
8 April 2013	

## HOLDING THE EXECUTIVE TO ACCOUNT

7. I hope the Committee will work with the Executive in a very constructive way and that the Executive Members will show true accountability in attending meeting when invited. Requests will be reasonable with sufficient notice and if the Performance Panel is approved than much of their input will be into this process, although the relevant Executive Member may need to attend when the Committee receives update reports on previous reviews.
8. The Executive Cabinet Members were invited to our first meeting to talk through the 10 immediate priorities that have been agreed by the new administration. This will help the Committee to understand the work that is ahead for the new Cabinet and allow us to focus our task group topics most effectively for the year and to agree a work programme.

## TASK GROUP TOPICS

9. The Committee aims to undertake around three reviews each year, it is noted that some topics would lend themselves to a lighter touch or quick response review where the task group may meet only a couple of times before concluding. These reviews could be dealt with fairly quickly and might be particularly good, for example, on issues coming out of the Performance Panel. Whilst the Conservative Group have decided not to take up any seats on Overview and Scrutiny Committee all Members of the Council will be invited to sit on any of the up and coming Task Group reviews that will be held throughout the year.

10. At an informal meeting of the Group there was much discussion about the potential review topics identified by Members. They are listed below with a suggestion as to how they can be dealt with.

	<b>Suggested Review Topic</b>	<b>Suggested Action</b>
1	Reporting procedures through the Contact	Possible light touch review
2	Civic Pride, encompassing public engagement; engagement with young people; citizenship	Possible review in 2012/13 to considered later in year
3	Play Area Provision	The Council has just concluded a major review on this area so a possible scrutiny review for the future.
4	Engaging with BME groups across the Borough	Equality Forum to address
5	Enhancing Employment levels	
6	Budget processes including consultation	Possible review in 2012/13
7	Council IT Operations – Internal and External Risks	
8	Adoption of Estates	Task Group Review 2012/13
9	Disabled Access across the Borough	Equality Forum to address
10	Sustainable Public Transport	Equality Forum to address
11	Liberata Contract	
12	Localism powers : how the Executive is going to use the new powers	

11. I am proposing to start with the review on the adoption of estates as it is a topic that affects many people across the Borough. This review is likely to require input from Lancashire County Council. I would like to agree a Chair for the Group so that the review can get started straight away. I would also like to appoint one of the newer Members to the role of Vice Chair to allow them to develop their skills in this area.

#### **CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY**

12. To fulfil our requirement to scrutinise the Community Safety Partnership I am proposing that the Committee looks at the role of the elected Police Commissioner, the Police and Crime Panel, local Partnership arrangements and future funding requirements. Before the Police and Crime Commissioners elections in November, the Committee needs to understand their expected role and implications so that post election we will be in a more informed

position to scrutinise implementation and delivery. As this is important for all Councillors, it could be delivered as a Member Development Session, and views on this are welcome.

## **HEALTH SCRUTINY**

13. The Committee appoints one Councillor to sit on the Lancashire County Councils Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In previous years there has been no formal feedback and this year I am proposing that this years representative Councillor Julia Berry, brings a short written update to meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to help keep us up to date with what the LCC Committee is looking at, both locally and across Lancashire.

## **SCRUTINY TRAINING**

14. It has been a few years since any scrutiny training has been delivered and therefore some refresher training may be useful, particularly looking at listening and questioning skills for scrutiny. Views on how to take this forward are welcome.

## **COUNCILLOR STEVE HOLGATE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There are no background papers to this report.

<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Ext</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Doc ID</b>
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