

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive (Introduced by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Cllr Edgerley)	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	27 June 2006
	Executive Cabinet	29 June 2006

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2006/07

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To seek approval to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2006/07, which identifies the proposed areas of work to be undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the two Panels during the current municipal year.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- The implementation of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme will assist the Council to achieve the Corporate Objective of being a performing organisation which is continually striving to improve.

RISK ISSUES

- The issue raised and recommendations made in this report involve risk considerations in the following categories:

Strategy	X	Information	
Reputation		Regulatory/Legal	
Financial		Operational	X
People		Other	

- It is essential that a corporate and strategic approach is adopted towards improvements in the operation of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function. The Work Programme will be linked to items in the Corporate Strategy and provide a mechanism to measure the performance and delivery of key targets in the Strategy.

BACKGROUND

- In view of the issues raised in the Council's CPA assessment relating to the ineffective Overview and Scrutiny role, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Cabinet gave approval to a workshop being held to complete the self - evaluation framework for Overview and Scrutiny produced by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS).
- Members of the Council and the Senior Management Group attended a workshop session held on 20 October 2005 at the Woodlands Conference Centre, Chorley to complete the CfPS framework and, during the exercise Members and Officers were requested to demonstrate evidence of achievement, identify areas for improvement, and highlight potential barriers to improvement for inclusion in an Overview and Scrutiny Improvement Plan.



7. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Cabinet approved the content of the Improvement Plan in March 2006, which identifies 13 actions to improve the delivery of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Function. An update on the progress made on the Improvement Plan will be submitted to the next meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Executive Cabinet.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2006/07

8. One of the key actions in the Improvement Plan is the production of an annual Overview and Scrutiny work programme which should be linked to the outcomes, measures and targets in the Corporate Strategy. This will ensure that the scrutiny topics:
- relate to the Council's priorities
 - relate to the concerns of the members of the public
 - are not under review by the any other body such as the Audit Committee
 - are issues about which something can be done and which scrutiny can provided added value.
9. The Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the two Panels (Councillors Edgerley, A Cullens and G Russell) have met the Strategy Group Officers to consider the content of the Corporate Strategy and identify potential topics for inclusion in the Work Programme. The proposed topics are as follows:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- The Council's current performance against the key lines of enquiry to be assessed by the Audit Commission during the Comprehensive Performance Assessment and Direction of Travel.
- The effectiveness of the Community Safety Partnership in the delivery of reduced levels of crime within the Borough.

Corporate and Customer Overview and Scrutiny Panel

- Job Evaluation
- Contact Centre Efficiencies and Partnership with Lancashire County Council
- Gershon Efficiencies
- Staff Sickness Absences

Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

- Neighbourhood Working
- Town Centre Strategy
- Inequalities in the Borough

10. A copy of the draft Overview and Scrutiny Programme is attached (Appendix 1) and the Committee is requested to determine the order of priority for the implementation of the scrutiny inquiries listed in paragraph 9 above. Thereafter, the Committee and appropriate Panel will be requested to complete the Scrutiny Inquiry Project Outline (see Appendix 2) for the first scrutiny inquiry selected.
11. The draft Overview and Scrutiny Programme also identifies the need for the Committee and Panels to undertake the following tasks in addition to the scrutiny inquiries:
- Hold the Executive Cabinet to account by the consideration of Directorate business plans and operational performance management data
 - Scrutiny of the Budget
 - Policy Development and Review
 - Monitoring of the implementation of approved recommendations in previous scrutiny inquiries

12. The timetable element within the Scrutiny Inquiry Project Outline to be completed for each scrutiny inquiry selected, will need to take into account the need for the issues set out above to be undertaken
13. It is essential that the scrutiny inquiries commenced in 2006/07 are timetabled for completion by the end of this Council year.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

14. There are no HR implications attached to this report. However, training for members of Overview and Scrutiny is vital to ensure that the process is robust and is meeting the needs of the authority.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

15. There are no financial implications associated with this report, other than the cost of training and undertaking the scrutiny, the costs of which should be contained within current budgetary provision.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

16. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Undertake the following scrutiny inquiries during 2006/07 in the order set out and complete the Scrutiny Inquiry Project Outline document (Appendix 2) for the first priority inquiry at its next meeting.

- The Council's current performance against the key lines of enquiry to be assessed by the Audit Commission during the Comprehensive Performance Assessment and Direction of Travel.
- The effectiveness of the Community Safety Partnership in the delivery of reduced levels of crime within the Borough.

- (2) Determine the order of priority for the implementation of the proposed scrutiny inquiries for the two Panels set out in paragraph 9 above and request the Panels to complete the Scrutiny Inquiry Project Outline document (Appendix 2) for the first priority inquiry at their next meeting.

- (3) Approve the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2006/07.

17. The Executive Cabinet is recommended to note the content of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2006/07.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) (If the recommendations are accepted)

18. To ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny work programme is linked to the outcomes, measures and targets in the Corporate Strategy. This will ensure that the scrutiny topics relate to the Council's priorities and can provide added value to the delivery of services

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

19. None

DONNA HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Overview and Scrutiny Improvement Plan			Democratic Services Town Hall, Chorley
Corporate Strategy			As above

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Steve Pearce	5196	15 June 2006	ADMINREP/92823LM