

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director of Governance	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	25 March 2008

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To seek approval to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2008/09, which identifies the proposed areas of work to be undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Task and Finish Groups.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:
 - To consider the topics suggested for a scrutiny inquiry and to choose an initial three topics for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To select from a list of topics suitable subjects for scrutiny inquiries.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- 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 providers and can provide added value to the delivery of services by the Council.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- None.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances		Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	
Involving people in their communities		Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	3

BACKGROUND

7. One of the key actions for reviewing scrutiny is the production of an Overview and Scrutiny work programme, which should be linked to the outcome, 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 duplicating any review by another body such as the Audit Committee
 - Are issues where scrutiny can make a difference or add value

8. A concerted effort has been made over the last couple of years to improve the role of Overview and Scrutiny.

In June of 2007 the Improvement and Development Agency (I& DeA) were invited to the authority to facilitate a series of training workshops for Members and Officers on the following subjects:

- Chairing Overview and Scrutiny.
- Effective Overview and Scrutiny.
- Financial Overview and Scrutiny.

It was apparent during the I&DeA training that Members had a large number of ideas for topics to be scrutinised. Sets out below are the topics that came out of the training exercise.

Proactive

Town Centre Strategy

Market Walk Phase 2 (car parking)

Refresh of medium term financial strategy

Astley Park and parks in general management and maintenance – 5 year plan

Waste Management Contract Renewal - What do we want?

Improve two-tier working

Rural policy of the council (isolation/inclusion)

Transport service form rural areas to Chorley Town Centre/Hospital

Social Housing

Reactive

Customer satisfaction - detail behind negative responses - specific departments

Issues arising from Community Forum - highways, juvenile nuisance

Improvements to the Town Centre.

Low performing service areas - performance management work, (format of information)

Effectiveness of the Forward Plan

Capital Programme Management

Some of the above topics have either been dealt with or are no longer appropriate to consider.

Since the I&DeA workshops other topics have been suggested:

Street Cleaning

Look at the work of individual Directorates

Use of the Lancastrian Suite

**Road Injuries and Deaths in the Chorley area. (Higher than the North West and England average)
Projects of the Local Strategic Partnership
Member Communication**

It is essential that the Scrutiny inquiries commenced in 2008/09 are timetabled for completion by the end of the Municipal Year. Early decisions on topics for 2008/09 would ensure an early start on these reviews.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		No significant implications in this area	3

ANDREW DOCHERTY
CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Gordon Banks	5123	29 February 2008	CGOVGEN/2502CM2