

.CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 2 September 2011
Report of: Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title: Work Programme update

1.0 Report Summary

1.1 To review items in the 2011/2012 Work Programme listed in the schedule attached, together with any other items suggested by Committee Members.

2.0 Recommendations

That the 2011/2012 work programme be reviewed.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 It is good practice to agree and review the Work Programme to enable effective management of the Committee's business.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Policy Implications including - Carbon reduction - Health

6.1 Not known at this stage.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 Not known at this stage.

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 None.

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 There are no identifiable risks.

10.0 Background and Options

10.1 The Committee previously reviewed the 2011/2012 work programme at its meeting held on 14 June 2011. However, a full review was delayed to await the outcome of changes made by the Leader in respect of the individual portfolio holder responsibilities. The Scrutiny Chairman's group subsequently made recommendations to the Constitution Committee to realign the new Scrutiny Committee structure to the new portfolio responsibilities. The Constitution Committee supported the recommended changes and Council on 21 July 2011 formally approved the new terms of reference. Consequently, a number of matters that had been in this Committee's work programme in 2010/2011 have now transferred to other Committees.

10.2 As a consequence of the Council decision, Corporate Scrutiny Committee now deals with the Leader/Resources and Procurement and Shared Services Portfolio holders only.

10.4 The Chairman and Vice - Chairman of the Committee held meetings with the two Portfolio Holders on 1 August 2011 to discuss emerging priorities within their respective portfolios for 2011/2012.

10.3 The work programme attached has been amended to reflect those discussions with the portfolio holders. The matters within the work programme require prioritisation. Members may also suggest additional items for consideration

10.4 However, when selecting potential topics, Members must have regard to the Corporate plan and Sustainable Community Strategy – 'Ambition for all' and also to the general criteria which should be applied to all potential items when considering whether any Scrutiny activity is appropriate. Matters should be assessed against the following criteria:

- Does the issue fall within a corporate priority
- Is the issue of key interest to the public
- Does the matter relate to a poor or declining performing service for which there is no obvious explanation
- Is there a pattern of budgetary overspends
- Is it a matter raised by external audit management letters and or audit reports?
- Is there a high level of dissatisfaction with the service

10.5 If during the assessment process any of the following emerge, then the topic should be rejected:

- The topic is already being addressed elsewhere
- The matter is subjudice
- Scrutiny cannot add value or is unlikely to be able to conclude an investigation within the specified timescale
-

11 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Mark Nedderman
Designation: Senior Scrutiny Officer
Tel No: 01270 686459
Email: mark.nedderman@cheshireeast.gov.uk