

Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

Date: Thursday, 9th July, 2009
Time: 10.30 am
Venue: Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road,
Sandbach CW11 1HZ

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any personal and /or prejudicial interests in any item on the agenda.

3. **Public Speaking Time/Open Session**

In accordance with Procedure Rules Nos.11 and 35 a total period of 10 minutes is allocated for members of the public to address the Committee on any matter relevant to the work of the Committee.

Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes but the Chairman will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned where there are a number of speakers.

Note: In order for officers to undertake any background research it would be helpful if questions were submitted at least one working day before the meeting.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 1 - 2)

For any apologies or requests for further information, or to give notice of a question to be asked by a member of the public

Contact: Katie Smith
Tel: 01270 529771
E-Mail: katie.smith@cheshireeast.gov.uk

To approve the minutes as a correct record

5. **Introduction to Community Safety**

To receive a presentation of the Community Safety Manager

6. **Local Area Agreement**

To receive a presentation of the Partnership Team

7. **Work Programme** (Pages 3 - 8)

To give consideration to the work programme

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Informal Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

held on Thursday, 14th May, 2009 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor H Murray (Chairman)
Councillor J Hammond (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors Mrs E Alcock, A Barratt, E Gilliland, D Hough, A Thwaite,
R Walker and Wilkinson

Apologies

Councillors D Flude, S McGrory and D Stockton

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/ PARTY WHIP

None

2 REMIT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The Committee considered a paper relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees based upon recommendations made by Scrutiny Members at the training day held on 27 April 2009. Members highlighted any areas for which they have specialist knowledge and it was noted that the remits would be reviewed in 12 months time.

RESOLVED

That the remit of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee be noted and reviewed in 12 months time.

3 STYLE, METHODS AND THEMES FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee gave consideration to the notes of the training session held on 27 April 2009 and a review of the Overview and Scrutiny Function in Stoke-On-Trent.

Members highlighted the following key issues:

- Meetings must be cross party
- Members should bring issues of importance to the Committee
- Scrutiny must be member led
- Outside bodies should be scrutinised
- Public participation is essential
- Outputs must be actionable

- Parameters must be set in the scoping exercise
- The number of tasks groups should be manageable
- The importance of training
- Tight call in procedure
- Dedicated staff
- Task and finish groups work well
- Planned investigations
- Portfolio Holders should not behave as Committee Members
- Recommendations should be monitored
- Observe good practice by visiting other authorities

4 DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a draft work programme, which was based upon matters referred to the Committee by the Shadow Scrutiny Committee. The list of items within the work programme had been discussed by Members at a training session held on 27 April 2009, at which, an initial attempt had been made to prioritise items.

Members acknowledged that the list of matters within the work programme was not exhaustive and that a more comprehensive list would be submitted to the first formal meeting of the Committee following discussions between the Chair and Vice Chairman, relevant Portfolio Holders and senior officers over the next few days.

It was agreed that presentations on the work of the CDRP and LAA would be received at the meeting scheduled to be held on 9 July 2009.

RESOLVED

1. That the report be noted
2. That the Committee receive presentations on the work of the CDRP and LAA at the meeting scheduled to be held on 9 July 2009

5 SCRUTINY UNCOVERED

The Committee watched a DVD explaining the role of Select Committees in Parliament. The DVD featured Members of both houses reflecting on their experiences, along with clerks and members of the public called to give evidence. The DVD highlighted the role that Select Committees played in the scrutiny of Government.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 12.30 pm

Councillor H Murray (Chairman)

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting:	9 July 2009
Report of:	Borough Solicitor And Monitoring Officer
Subject/Title:	Work Programme

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To consider further the items proposed for inclusion in the Committee's Work Programme and determine which items should be included in the Work Programme for the current municipal year.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee agree its Work Programme.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 It is good practice to agree a 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

- 6.1 Not known at this stage.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 7.1 None identified at the moment.

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

- 8.1 Not known at this stage.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 There are no identifiable risks.

11.0 Background and Options

- 11.1 At the last meeting of the Committee, Members considered a list of potential items for the Work Programme that had been given a priority order at the Scrutiny briefing session held on 27 April
- 11.2 The Chairman and Vice Chairman have also met with the relevant Portfolio Holders and Seniors Officers to discuss the remit of the Committee and further items for the Work Programme.
- 11.3 The Committee is now invited to consider and determine a Work Programme, decide a priority order, agree timescales and methodology – for example, whether items should be dealt with by a Task/Finish Panel, at the main Committee etc.
- 11.4 To assist the Committee, each of the issue highlighted in the work programme 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

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

12.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

12.1 It is good practice to have a Work Programme for the Committee to consider and prioritise on a regular basis.

13.0 Access to Information

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

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Sustainable Communities Work Programme

Issue	Priority
Briefing on LAA	High
Briefing from the CDRP	High
Briefing from Youth Offending Team	Medium
CCTV	Medium
Budget	Medium
Motorbikes	Low
Alcohol Misuse	Low

Area	Policy Development	Scrutiny	Briefings	Priority
CDRP		Work of CDRP (including Community wardens)	9 July	High
LAA		LAA	9 July	High
Rest of Remit	Enforcement Policy		17 September	Medium
	CCTV – interim report		17 September	Medium
	Pest Control			Medium

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