

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## REPORT TO: CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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**Date of Meeting:** 8 March 2011  
**Report of:** Borough Solicitor  
**Subject/Title:** Work Programme update

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### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 To review items in the 2010/2011 Work Programme listed in the schedule attached, together with any other items suggested by Committee Members.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

### **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 Budget Consultation Group concluded its consideration of the draft budget proposals on 11 February 2011 when it reviewed the capital programme proposals for the 3 year period 2011-1014. Representatives from Cabinet and Corporate Management Team attended the meeting to answer Members questions. The Chairman of this Committee subsequently attended the 14 February Cabinet meeting and formally conveyed his appreciation to Cabinet Members and Officers for their co-operation in ensuring the Budget Consultation Group had been given an opportunity to consider all of the matters contained in the Pre Budget.

10.2 By the time of this meeting, the Business Generation Task and Finish Group will have undertaken site visits to a variety of business generation facilities. The first visit is to 'Regenerate Pennine Lancashire' in Blackburn, an independent company run on behalf of a consortium of East Lancashire authorities. The next visits will be to a Stockport to look at a national private sector operator in the business centre and flexible workspace industry, and finally to an independent private sector operator in Macclesfield. The group has series of meetings planned to interview a number of internal and external stakeholders in March and is on course to report back its findings to this Committee in April 2011.

10.3 Members are also asked to review the work programme attached and are reminded that in selecting new items for the work programme, Members must pay close attention to the Corporate Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy. Both of these documents have now been approved and adopted by Council.

10.4 Members must also have regard 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

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:

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