

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 14 April 2011
Report of: Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title: Work Programme update

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

That the 2010/2011 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 In preparation for the 2011/2012 civic year, the Committee should now take this opportunity to review the current work programme to identify any items that may be deleted, those where the Committee recommends that action will be required in the new civic year, and those which should be retained in the work programme for the purposes of monitoring.

10.2 There are 3 specific matters which have been subject to Overview and Scrutiny monitoring during the last 12 months. These are:

- Highways Contract Monitoring Group
- Macclesfield Data Centre monitoring Group
- Budget Monitoring Group

10.3 The chairman will ask representatives from the Highways Monitoring Group and Macclesfield Data Centre Group to report briefly on their respective activities during the year. This will assist the Committee in deciding upon the future of both groups.

10.4 The Committee is also requested to consider whether the Budget Monitoring Group should be reconvened after the annual meeting. If it is to be continued, the Committee may wish to consider amending its terms of reference to concentrate on a narrower focus of the process of Budget Consultation.

10.5 As always, Members are asked when reviewing the work programme attached to pay close attention to the Corporate Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy.

10.6 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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