

.CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 20 July 2012
Report of: Borough Solicitor
Subject/Title: Work Programme update

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To review items in the 2012/2013 Work Programme listed in the schedule attached, together with any other items suggested by Committee Members.

2.0 Recommendations

That the 2012/2013 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 schedule attached has been updated since the last meeting, with the addition of 2 new items which had been suggested as potential items at meetings held between the Chairman and Vice Chairmen and the Committee's 3 portfolio holders on 6 July 2012. The two items are pensions and benefits. Both items need to be prioritised and deadlines set.
- 10.2 One outstanding matter contained in the work programme relates to the governance review. The Council in May 2012 agreed with effect from the end of a shadow period of operation, which shall end no earlier than September 2012, that the existing Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be dissolved and be replaced with two Overview and Scrutiny Committees and a number of Policy Advisor Groups aligned to Cabinet.
- 10.3 The current position is that a draft discussion document has been prepared by the Borough Solicitor outlining the terms of reference for the proposed advisory groups and how these Groups might operate in the policy development and decision making process. The document also sets out the changes to the current system that will be required to facilitate their introduction.
- 10.4 It is expected that a meeting of the Governance Joint Member Working Group will be convened later in July to consider the discussion document.
- 10.5 Members are asked to review the schedule attached to this report and if appropriate add new items or delete items that are no longer require any scrutiny activity. 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;
- 10.3 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
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11 *Access to Information*

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

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