

.CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 4 September 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.

10.2 The Committee has asked for regular updates on the governance review which has been taking place since Council in May 2012 approved in principle the introduction of Policy Advisory Groups (now to be known as Policy Development groups. The latest position is that arrangements for the first meetings of four pilots (namely Capital Policy Development Group, Strategic Communities Policy Development Group, Performance Policy Development Group and Prosperity & Economic Development Policy Development Group) are now in place for the first meetings to take place in private in September. Appointments to the Policy Development Groups is being arranged through the group whips.

10.3 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;

10.4 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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