

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Scrutiny and Overview Committee

4 March 2010

AUTHOR/S: Scrutiny Development Officer

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose

- 1 To update the committee on progress made on past and ongoing scrutiny work.
- 2 To enable the committee to plan its work programme for the remainder of 2009/10.

Options

- 3 The Committee may agree the work programme at Appendix A, subject to changes agreed at this meeting.

Existing Task and Finish Groups

- 4 The Finance task & finish group is making its final report to this meeting with an expectation of this being forwarded to the Cabinet on 8 April.
- 5 The task & finish group reviewing how well the Council works with partners on services for children and young people, aims to make a final report on 1 April 2010.

Progress on past recommendations and decisions

- 6 The committee made five recommendations at the meeting of 5 November regarding Orchard Park. An update on these was provided in February and the Committee agreed to request a fuller update later in 2010.

Planning the remaining 2009/10 work programme

- 7 The current work programme is at Appendix A.
- 8 The Council's Forward Plan for March 2010 will be available at the meeting and is at <http://scambsmoderngov.co.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPIId=293&bcr=1>.
- 9 In choosing topics for the work programmes, Members are reminded of the agreed selection criteria as shown at Appendix B. Members will also wish to consider any impact on the Sustainable Community Strategy's priorities and targets as at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/774C1C91-75A0-4D6C-8B5D-419380255C7D/0/ReworkedLAA_text2withcover.pdf

Planning the 2010/11 work programme

- 10 The process for developing a work programme for 2010/11 is now underway. Topics have emerged during this year as follows:
 - Performance Improvement Strategy's Action Plan
 - Progress on the Customer Service Excellence project
 - Performance of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership
 - Progress at Orchard Park
- 11 A news release has been issued, inviting residents to suggest potential topics, and the next *South Cambs Magazine* will carry a similar invitation.

- 12 The Cabinet, Members and senior officers will shortly be invited to identify areas in which the Committee could add value during 2010/11.
- 13 Members of the Local Strategic Partnership will be asked to suggest topics at their meeting in April.
- 14 Two other sources of potential topics will be considered at the meeting of this Committee on 1 April 2010:
- [the Audit Commission's 2009 Corporate Area Assessment](#) and
 - Customer complaints
- 15 The Committee may wish to suggest other potential topics that have arisen through portfolio monitoring or speaking with residents.
- 16 The Committee will agree its 2010/11 work programme on 24 June 2010, following an informal workshop.

17 **Implications**

Financial	None
Legal	The Constitution states that the Committee will set its own work programme
Staffing/ capacity	The committee is supported by one scrutiny officer. Each item selected for scrutiny would require support by at least one lead officer. Capacity for scrutiny work is also dependent on the number of elected members available and willing to participate
Risk Management	The potential burden on the organisation of supporting scrutiny work must be balanced against the potential value it could add. External scrutiny carries the risk of affecting the Council's relationship or credibility with partners
Equal Opportunities	None

Consultation

- 18 Cabinet, elected members, senior officers and residents are invited to suggest potential topics. Parish councils will be consulted via the weekly bulletin.
- 19 Ongoing consultation, for example to explore joint scrutiny activities, is undertaken via the county scrutiny network.

Effect on Corporate Objectives

- 20 The Committee's selection criteria ensure that any topic selected for scrutiny will contribute to at least one of the Council's priorities.

Options

- 21 The Committee may agree the work programme at Appendix A, subject to changes agreed at this meeting.

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