

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Scrutiny and Overview Committee
LEAD OFFICER: Executive Director (Corporate Services)

5 September 2013

WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

Purpose

1. To provide the Scrutiny and Overview Committee with an opportunity to plan its work programme for future meetings.

Recommendations

2. That the draft Work Programme attached at **Appendix A** to this report be approved, subject to any amendments put forward at the meeting.

Background

3. The latest version of the Committee's work programme is attached at **Appendix A** to this report and has been developed in consultation with the Chairman, taking into account any changes agreed at the previous meeting of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.
4. Further items to consider at future meetings of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee may be identified from the Council's draft Forward Plan, which is attached as **Appendix B** to this report.

Considerations

Scrutiny Reviews

5. At an informal meeting with the Scrutiny and Overview Committee on 7 March 2013 the issue of Scrutiny Reviews was discussed in terms of the different ways in which they can be undertaken. A number of options were identified, as outlined in **Appendix C** attached to this report, which should help Members decide upon an appropriate method of carrying out a Scrutiny Review.

Joint Working

6. Officers from Democratic Services continue to liaise with neighbouring authorities as part of the Cambridgeshire Scrutiny Network, in order to share good practice and identify any potential areas for joint working.

Training and Development

7. The Democratic Services Team Leader has identified some training and development sessions through the Centre for Public Scrutiny which may be suitable for the Scrutiny and Overview Committee. The proposed content of these sessions will be discussed with Members at the meeting.

Implications

8. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

Financial

9. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee has a discretionary budget of £5,000.

Legal

10. The Council's Constitution states that the Scrutiny and Overview Committee will set its own work programme.

Staffing

11. The Democratic Services Team continues to support the Council's scrutiny and overview function, with additional support for Scrutiny Reviews from service areas as and when required. Capacity for in-depth scrutiny work, such as the establishment of a Task and Finish Group, will be dependent on the number of elected members available and willing to participate.

Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council)

12. No consultation has taken place on the content of this report.
13. Consultation with children and young people on the work of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee predominantly takes place through the South Cambridgeshire Youth Council. Members of the Youth Council have been invited to attend meetings of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee and a regular update item on the work of the Youth Council features on agendas on an alternative meetings basis.
14. All elected members, senior officers, parish councils and residents are invited to suggest potential items for inclusion on the Scrutiny and Overview Committee's work programme.

Effect on Strategic Aims

Aim A – We will listen to and engage with residents, parishes and businesses to ensure we deliver first class services and value for money

15. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee will contribute to this strategic aim as it challenges decision takers and holds them to account as part of its deliberations.

Background Papers: No background papers were used in the production of this report.

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