



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

REPORT TO: Scrutiny and Overview Committee

3 July 2014

LEAD OFFICER: Alex Colyer, Executive Director (Corporate Services)

WORK PROGRAMME 2014

Purpose

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

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the draft Work Programme attached at **Appendix A** of 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**. It has been developed in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, taking into account any changes agreed at the previous meeting of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.
4. The Customer Contact Centre scoping document is attached at **Appendix B**.
5. The Scrutiny Prioritisation Tool is attached at **Appendix C**.

Considerations

The four principles of effective scrutiny

6. The Centre for Public Scrutiny works towards four principles of effective scrutiny, these being:
 - to provide 'critical friend' challenge to executive policy-makers and decision-makers;
 - to enable the voice and concerns of the public and its communities;
 - that scrutiny be carried out by 'independent minded governors' who lead and own the scrutiny process;
 - to drive improvement in public services.
7. Members are asked to give due consideration to these principles when carrying out their role on the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.

Work Programming

8. A number of items were put forward at the Scrutiny training session held in January 2014, for potential consideration at future meetings of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.

9. Using the work programme prioritisation tool, as attached in **Appendix C**, these items were categorised to ascertain their priority from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee's perspective. The results of this exercise were as follows:

High Priority (include in work programme)	Low Priority (consider including in work programme)
Customer Contact Centre	Organisational Development Strategy
Economic Development Service	South Cambs Ltd
Planning Performance	

10. Members considered the Economic Development Service, and felt that this should be revisited later in the year after the Conservation Service Review had been undertaken and resulting changes implemented.
11. Members are encouraged to suggest items or topics for potential consideration at future meetings, which will be assessed using the criteria set out in the prioritisation tool.
12. Further items to consider at future meetings may be identified from the Council's Corporate Forward Plan, which is attached as **Appendix D**. Bold text in this document denotes either a new item added or a change in date from a previously published Plan.

Implications

13. 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, there are no significant implications.

Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council)

14. No consultation has taken place on the content of this report.
15. 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.

Effect on Strategic Aims

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

16. 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.

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