

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Scrutiny and Overview Committee
AUTHOR/S: Scrutiny Development Officer

1 October 2009

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 coming months.

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 Committee is in the process of setting up a task & finish group to review young people's services and a verbal update on progress will be made at the meeting.
- 5 The Finance task & finish group is continuing to monitor progress on the recommendations made in its interim report. The group intends to reconvene as soon as the new executive director and S151 officer is available to support the second tranche of work. This is likely to be after he has presented his second report on value for money, in December.

Progress on past recommendations and decisions

- 6 There were no formal recommendations or decisions at the last meeting. However, at the previous meeting members suggested to the Finance portfolio holder:
 - *the Federation of Small Businesses should be approached to see if they could assist in creating a business forum*An update may be requested from the Economic Development Officer at this meeting.

Planning the 2009/10 work programme

- 7 The current work programme is at Appendix A.
- 8 The Council's Forward Plan for September 2009 will also be available at the meeting.
- 9 In choosing topics for the work programme, 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

10 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

- 11 Cabinet, elected members, senior officers and residents have been invited to suggest potential topics. Parish councils continue to be consulted during the year, especially when the Scrutiny & Overview Committee meets in their locality.
- 12 Consultation with nearby councils, including the county council, took place at the county-wide scrutiny conference in September 2009. Ongoing consultation, for example to explore joint scrutiny activities, can be undertaken via the county scrutiny network.

Effect on Corporate Objectives

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

Recommendations

- 14 That this report be used as a basis for agreeing a work programme for 2009/10.

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