
WORK PROGRAMME: UPDATE and SCOPING POTENTIAL INQUIRIES

Background

1. The Constitution states (Scrutiny Procedure Rule 7) that each Scrutiny Committee will set its own work programme. Committee Members attended fora to develop recommendations for the work programme in the early summer of 2015, and the Committee agreed the work programme for 2015/16 at its meeting on 8 July 2015. This is attached at **Appendix A**.

2. This report is to provide Members with an update on the actions requested as part of the work programme and to allow Members to discuss proposals for task and finish groups.

Update on actions requested

3. As part of the work programme process, Members agreed to pilot new ways of working in several areas in order to address the perceived need to have fewer items on Committee meeting agendas and for Committee meetings to last normally no more than three hours. The resulting actions are detailed below, with an update on progress so far:
 - a. Performance Panel – has met two times, resulting in a report to this Committee recommending specific areas for more in-depth scrutiny and comments on the Quarter One performance report.
 - b. Budget Monitoring – awaiting response from Christine Salter
 - c. Scrutinising impact of previous inquiries – scheduled in work programme, as attached at **Appendix A**.
 - d. Joint meetings with CYP Scrutiny Committee – held joint meeting 29 July 2015 to consider the draft Director of Social Services Annual

Report 20104-15; further joint meeting to be scheduled for late Autumn once CSSIW publishes their annual evaluation.

- e. Joint meeting with Environmental Scrutiny Committee – discussed with relevant Chairs and officers and due to be scheduled for spring 2016.
- f. Thematic approach to policy development and review items – scoping undertaken for Older People item, for this Committee meeting. Scoping to be undertaken for Housing Issues item due in November, Domestic Violence item due in December, Reshaping Adult Social Care item due in January 2016 and Housing item due in March 2016.
- g. Social Services and Well Being Act briefings – discussed with the Director of Social Services and due to commence in October 2015.
- h. Other items briefings – discussed with relevant Directors and scheduled in work programme, as attached at **Appendix A**.
- i. Prevent/ Contest briefing – held 4 August 2015, with Martin Hamilton and Carl Davies giving a presentation and answering Members' questions.
- j. Visits to Alarm Receiving Centre and SMART house – organised and scheduled for 17 September and 18 September respectively.

Potential Inquiries

- 4. As part of the work programme, Members requested that initial scoping work be undertaken for two potential task and finish inquiries, following suggestions received. Details on the scoping work to date are provided below and in **Appendices B and C**.

Night Time Economy Crime & Disorder issues

- 5. The suggestion for a Night Time Economy Crime and Disorder scrutiny was made by South Wales Police, who specifically asked for scrutiny focusing on how, in times of austerity, partners can work together to ensure a sustainable operating model for managing the night time economy and major events, as well as scrutiny of licensing hearings.

6. Scrutiny officers have met with Chief Inspector Daniel Howe, who has responsibility for partnership working, and Inspector Neil Jones, who covers the city centre area, to gain their views and perspectives on the issues regarding Cardiff's Night Time Economy in terms of crime, disorder and community safety. On 14 September 2015, scrutiny officers are also due to meet with South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner officers, who are undertaking work across South Wales regarding the Night Time Economy as part of tackling violent crime; any relevant information received from this meeting will be reported to Members at this Committee meeting.
7. Scrutiny officers have liaised with Council officers involved in managing the city centre, including: Paul Williams (City Centre Manager); Claire Hartrey (Licensing); and Peter King (Partnership Analyst).
8. Scrutiny officers have collated relevant sections of the previous Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee report on the Night Time Economy, reports to the Safer and Cohesive Communities Programme Board and information received via Mosaic Consultancy, who are currently working with Council regarding the development of a Business Improvement District (BID). Scrutiny officers have also carried out desk based research into BIDs and Late Night Levy.
9. The above work was used to prepare a briefing report for Councillors McGarry, Lomax and Sanders, who were nominated to scope this Inquiry at Committee on 8 July 2015, to consider at their meeting on 4 September 2015. An updated report, together with their suggestions is attached at **Appendix B**.

Anti-Social Behaviour

10. Members received several suggestions to hold an inquiry looking into Anti-Social Behaviour, including South Wales Police, South Wales Fire and Rescue Services and Councillor Ralph Cook. These suggestions specifically asked for scrutiny to focus on partnership arrangements for responding to Anti- Social Behaviour, particularly in times of constricted public finances, and to look at how best to deal with fires deliberately set in loose refuse and discarded waste.

11. Scrutiny officers have met with Chief Inspector Daniel Howe, who has responsibility for partnership working, and Inspector Neil Jones, who covers the city centre area, to gain their views and perspectives on the issues regarding Anti Social Behaviour in Cardiff. On 1 September 2015, scrutiny officers met with South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner officers, who are undertaking a thematic review of how South Wales Police work to address Anti Social Behaviour. Scrutiny officers are also due to meet with Richard Matheson, Area Manager – Head of Risk Reduction, South Wales Fire and Rescue Services, and will report on this at the Committee meeting.
12. Scrutiny officers have liaised with Council officers with responsibility for managing Anti Social Behaviour, including: Ellen Curtis (Operational Manager Landlord Services) and Peter King (Partnership Analyst).
13. Scrutiny officers have collated relevant sections of the previous Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee report on Tackling Anti Social Behaviour (2013), reports to the Safer and Cohesive Communities Programme Board and information received from the above discussions.
14. The above work has been used to prepare a briefing report for discussion at this meeting, which is attached at **Appendix C**. Councillors McGarry, Ahmed and Carter, who were nominated to scope this Inquiry at Committee on 8 July 2015, may have comments and suggestions they wish to share at the meeting.

Other Issues

15. At the meeting with South Wales Police, officers raised concerns about street homelessness in the City Centre and the fact this increases over the summer months, due to winter accommodation being closed. Officers asked that this be raised at this Committee meeting for consideration for inclusion in the work programme, potentially as part of the Housing item scheduled for November 2015.

Legal Implications

16. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

17. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- i)** Consider the contents of this report and appendices;
- ii)** Agree any amendments to the work programme attached at **Appendix A**, including considering whether to include street homelessness issues in the Housing item due in November 2015;
- iii)** Decide whether or not to progress with fully scoping terms of reference for an Inquiry into Night Time Economy Crime and Disorder issues;
- iv)** Decide whether or not to progress with fully scoping terms of reference for an Inquiry into Anti-Social Behaviour issues;
- v)** Agree the appropriate timings for any Inquiries agreed.

MARIE ROSENTHAL
Director of Governance and Legal Services
10 September 2015