

POLICY REVIEW & PERFORMANCE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 September 2012

WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

Reason for the Report

1. To advise Members of the 2012/13 Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee work programme constructed following a forum of the Committee and discussion prior to committee; and to seek expressions of interest for two proposed task group inquiries.

Background

2. The Council's Constitution states that each Scrutiny Committee will set its own work programme for the forthcoming year (Scrutiny Procedure Rule 7). The Committee held an initial work programming forum on 20 June 2012. Members have received a draft work programme and list of possible items from which they were invited to indicate their top five priorities/preferences. An opportunity for further discussion to agree final priorities and task group inquiries will take place prior to Committee.

Issues

3. Council in June 2012 agreed nine timetabled Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee meetings between September 2012 and May 2013 for which to programme work.
4. The draft work programme attached at **Appendix A** indicates those routine items that the Committee, within its Terms of Reference, is obliged to consider, those items that have of necessity been arranged for September and October's Committee, and those items for which at least two Members

have expressed a preference. Many of these are the key foundation blocks that will inform effective scrutiny of all items (eg *Corporate Plan, budget, improvement report*)

5. It will be necessary to maintain some flexibility within the work programme. This is the first year of a new administration, and therefore there is the potential for a higher proportion of pre - decision scrutiny. Items will unavoidably need to be accommodated at short notice to ensure the Committee fulfils its role with maximum impact.
6. The Committee is currently leading on a joint task & finish inquiry on the preferred strategy for the Local Development Plan, jointly chaired by Cllr Clarke and supported by the Committee's Principal Scrutiny Officer. Representatives on this task group are Councillors Hunt, Mitchell and Robson.
7. Scoping is underway on two suggested topics for further task and finish inquiries, *Public Engagement in Scrutiny* and *Performance Management*. The resources for taking these inquiries forward are currently unconfirmed, however at least one will be undertaken by the Committee's Principal Scrutiny Officer. Resources for a third task group will be subject to discussion and agreement by the Scrutiny Chairs Liaison Forum and the Operational Manager, Scrutiny.
8. Expressions of interest are invited to shape the terms of reference and scope of the *Public Engagement in Scrutiny* inquiry, and the *Performance Management* inquiry.

Legal Implications

9. 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 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 of 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

10. 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. Agree the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Work Programme for 2012/13.
- ii Seek expressions of interest for the task and finish inquiries on Public Engagement in Scrutiny and Performance Management.

MIKE DAVIES

Head of Scrutiny, Performance and Improvement

29 August 2012