

WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

Report By: Director of Corporate and Customer Services

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider the Committee's work programme.

Background

2. A report on Scrutiny Committees' current work programmes is made to each of the scheduled quarterly meetings of this Scrutiny Committee. The Chairman has decided that an update on this Committee's work programme should be made to this meeting to highlight, in particular, progress on five major issues that he and the Vice-Chairman consider should be scrutinised. A copy of the current work programme is appended.
3. The five issues are
 - Waste Disposal which in turn affects future Collection contracts
 - Accommodation for Council Staff and potential partner providers
 - ICT
 - Herefordshire Connects
 - Electoral Registration Services issues
4. The intended reporting arrangements are as follows:

	Planned Reporting Date to Strategic Monitoring Committee	Comment
Waste Disposal	To be agreed with the Committee.	The joint waste disposal strategy (Worcestershire County Council and Herefordshire Council) is under review and a draft for consultation will be published in the next 6 weeks or so. The outcome of that review will shape the future strategy and delivery of both the disposal and collection operations. The Director of Environment and Cabinet Member for Environment and Strategic Housing are assessing a wide range of options to balance medium and long term

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Tim Brown, Committee Manager (Scrutiny) on 01432 260239

		needs and opportunities in the context of financial and environmental concerns. The consultation on the new strategy is due to complete in March 2008 after which a comprehensive report will be forthcoming.
Accommodation Strategy	October 2007	Report due to go to Cabinet in October and then be considered by this Committee.
ICT	September 2007	Report on progress in response to Scrutiny Review of ICT Services is on the agenda for the meeting on 17 th September. .
Herefordshire Connects	October 2007	The annual report on Herefordshire Connects is due to be considered by Cabinet in September and will be reported to this Committee in October
Electoral Registration Issues (including review of location of polling stations)	October 2007 and as agreed with the Committee.	A report on Electoral Registration issues will be made in October 2007. The review of polling stations is a separate exercise which will report to Cabinet in November with consultation with the public and Members in October 2007. Consideration of this issue to be agreed with the Committee.

5. Having received these reports the Committee will be invited to decide whether further scrutiny is required and what form that should take.
6. There was originally a sixth issue: Herefordshire Jarvis Services (HJS) and other "arms-length" contractors' performance and comparable value for money & delivery schedules.
7. As announced on Monday 3 September, Amey plc, one of the leading integrated support service providers in the country, has purchased the major part of Herefordshire Jarvis Services. Jarvis plc has sold 80 per cent of HJS. Herefordshire Council owns and retains the remaining 20 per cent share in the business.
8. In these circumstances the Committee could take the view that the new arrangements should be allowed to develop and a review of progress on this issue considered by the Committee in six months time. Alternatively it might request a report on quality of performance and costs of arms-length services in October 2007 prior to any new initiatives being introduced by Amey PLC.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee considers the proposed reporting arrangements set out above and the Work programme be amended to reflect any comments the Committee wishes to make.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None