

MEETING:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	8 FEBRUARY 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	WORK PROGRAMME
REPORT BY:	COMMITTEE MANAGER (SCRUTINY)

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To consider the Committee's work programme including a request from the Executive to review the impact of the severe winter weather as part of that programme.

Recommendation

- THAT (a) the Committee considers whether it wishes to include a review of the impact of the severe winter weather within its work programme; and**
- (b) subject to (a) above the current work programme be approved as a basis for further development, subject to any comment the Committee wishes to make.**

Introduction and Background

1. This Committee is responsible for overseeing, co-ordinating and approving the work programmes of the scrutiny committees and approving its own annual work programme. It is also required to periodically review its and the scrutiny committees work programmes to ensure that overview and scrutiny is effective, that there is an efficient use of scrutiny resources and that potential duplication of effort by scrutiny members is minimised.
2. A report on the work programmes of all Scrutiny Committees' will be made to this Committee quarterly. A copy of this Committee's own work programme will be made to each of its scheduled meetings. A copy of this Committee's work programme is appended.
3. The Committee's programme may be modified by the Chairman following consultation with the Vice-Chairman and the Directors in response to changing circumstances.
4. Should any urgent, prominent or high profile issue arise, the Chairman may consider calling an additional meeting to consider that issue.
5. Should Members become aware of any issues they consider may be added to the scrutiny programme they should contact the Chairman or Democratic Services to log

the issue so that it may be taken into consideration when planning future agendas or when revising the work programme.

Request from the Executive to carry out a review

6. The Functions Scheme, part 3 of the Constitution, provides for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive requests from Cabinet and/or Council for overview and scrutiny reviews. The Committee is required to determine whether any such review should be carried out and to allocate the review work accordingly.
7. The Leader of the Council has invited the Committee to conduct a review of the impact of the recent severe winter weather on communities in the County and across the public services including partners in Health, Schools, Police and the Voluntary Sector. The Executive wishes to establish what lessons can be learnt, what was done right and what can be improved. Are there any bureaucratic barriers which should be removed at times of communities under stress? What recommendations are there for partners locally and nationally? It is requested that this review is completed and the report submitted to Cabinet before the end of July in order to give sufficient time to build on any recommendations into future winter planning.

Progress in response to recommendations made and issues raised by the Committee

8. One issue is outstanding from the Committee's last meeting.

Medium Term Financial Strategy	
Additional Actions	
Clarification on why the 2009/10 Council Tax level at Band D for Herefordshire (excluding Parish Councils) was below the average for unitary authorities but above the average once parishes, police and fire were included. It was requested clarification be provided	Briefing note in preparation.

Background Papers

- None identified.