

MEETING:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	19 MARCH 2012
TITLE OF REPORT:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME
REPORT BY:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – LAW, GOVERNANCE AND RESILIENCE

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To consider the Committee's work programme.

Recommendation(s)

THAT: the work programme as appended be noted, subject to any comments the Committee wishes to make.

Key Points Summary

- The Committee is asked to note its work programme and to note progress on the scrutiny reviews approved by the Committee in July.

Alternative Options

- 1 It is for the Committee to determine its work programme as it sees fit to reflect the priorities facing Herefordshire. Any number of subjects could be included in the work programme. However, the Committee does need to be selective and ensure that the work programme is focused on the key issues, realistic and deliverable within the existing resources available.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 The Committee needs to develop a manageable work programme to ensure that scrutiny is focused, effective and produces clear outcomes.

Introduction and Background

- 3 An outline work programme only is appended for this meeting. This is because it is proposed to hold an away day to review the programme. The appendix also contains a chart showing progress to date on the six scrutiny reviews commissioned by the Committee in July. The following Task and Finish Groups are currently at work:

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

- Planning System Review – Development Control and the operation of the Constitution
- Safeguarding arrangements for Children

4 Reports from the following reviews appear elsewhere on this agenda:

- Council Procurement Policy and Local Business and Local Employment
- Income and Charging
- Safeguarding Adults
- Tourist Signing (Brown Signs)

5. The new Herefordshire Public Services Rolling Programme is also appended.

Community Impact

6. The topics selected for scrutiny should have regard to what matters to the County's residents.

Financial Implications

7 The costs of the work of the Scrutiny Committee will have to be met within existing resources. It should be noted the costs of running scrutiny will be subject to an assessment to support appropriate processes.

Legal Implications

8 The Council is required to deliver an Overview and Scrutiny function.

Risk Management

9 There is a reputational risk to the Council if the Overview and Scrutiny function does not operate effectively. The arrangements for the development of the work programme should help to mitigate this risk.

Consultees

10 Following initial consultation on topics for scrutiny with Directors and Members of the Cabinet, all Members of the Council were invited to suggest items for scrutiny.

Appendices

11 Overview and Scrutiny Committee outline Work Programme

Herefordshire Public Services Rolling Programme

Background Papers

- None identified.