

MEETING:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	4 JULY 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

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 current work. .

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 The current work programme is appended.. The appendix also contains a chart showing progress to date on the review of 'Safeguarding arrangements for Children'. A review of the Housing Allocations Policy and the Effective Use of the Housing Stock is planned to commence shortly.

4 Reports from the following completed reviews have been considered by Cabinet Members and reports appear elsewhere on this agenda:

- Council Procurement Policy and Local Business and Local Employment
- Income and Charging
- Planning System Review – Development Control and the Operation of the Constitution
- Safeguarding Adults
- Tourist Signing (Brown Signs)

Community Impact

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

Financial Implications

6 The council is facing significant challenges in financial terms and through the national settlement and reductions in funding. The council's five year financial strategy includes an estimated 29.7% reduction in government formula grant. Budget decisions have been based on a set of core principles that include Supporting the Vulnerable. The process also includes fundamentally challenging what the council does to ensure appropriate use of public funding and quality of service.

6 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

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

Risk Management

8 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

9 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

10 Overview and Scrutiny Committee outline Work Programme

Herefordshire Public Services Rolling Programme

Background Papers

- None identified.