

WORK PROGRAMMES

Report By: County Secretary and Solicitor

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider the Committee's own work programme and updated work programmes of the other Scrutiny Committees.

Background

2. This Committee approved a work programme for itself on 9th February, 2004 which ran until February 2005. An updated version is appended for consideration. This incorporates items identified as requiring periodic monitoring and attention. It is envisaged that this will be added to as required.
3. The reference in the Work Programme to performance monitoring reports embraces reporting on the revenue budget, the capital programme, performance indicators and risk. Work is in hand to agree a new suite of reports to Cabinet and this Committee based on the Council's Annual Operating Plan and integrating risk, expenditure and the Local Public Service Agreement wherever possible.
4. The Annual Operating Plan itself could be used to identify priorities for scrutiny to focus upon in the current year to add both to this Committee's work programme and those of the other scrutiny Committees. One way to identify priorities would be for Members of the Strategic Monitoring Committee to meet informally and draw up a co-ordinated programme having regard to the criteria included in the Council's Scrutiny Handbook, for reference back to the individual Scrutiny Committees.
5. The Environment, Health and Social and Economic Development Scrutiny Committees considered updated work programmes in March 2005. These are attached to enable the Committee to fulfil the co-ordinating role prescribed for it in the Constitution.
6. The Education and Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Committees have not approved work programmes at this stage pending the outcome of the review of the Scrutiny Committee structure and the terms of reference of the Scrutiny Committees, as part of the review of the Constitution.
7. The Education Scrutiny Committee on 14th March did, however, identify the following matters for future scrutiny: further up-date on pupil numbers and the implication for schools of falling numbers on roll; Banded Funding – monitoring progress on its implementation; and the position of Education Systems Support in the wider Council's corporate structure.

8. The Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Committee on 5th April suggested that the following matters should be scrutinised: Homelessness and Homelessness Advice; Services for those with Learning Disabilities (including respite care), partnership working with the Primary Care Trust; provision of aids and adaptations and the Supporting People programme.
9. One further matter to bring to the Committee's attention is the suggestion, as reported in the Cabinet report to Council in February 2005, that, "Scrutiny Committees give consideration to areas of concern highlighted at Local Area Forum meetings in formulating and reviewing their work programmes".

RECOMMENDATION

- THAT (a) the Committee's work programme be confirmed, subject to any comments the Committee wishes to make;**
- (b) the Committee note the work programmes of the other Scrutiny Committees;**
- and**
- (c) consideration be given to how best to identify priorities for Scrutiny having regard to the Annual Operating Plan.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None