

WORK PROGRAMMES 2006/07

Report By: Director of Corporate and Customer Services

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 last approved a work programme for itself on 15th April, 2005. This incorporated items identified as requiring periodic monitoring and attention and it was envisaged that this would be added to as required. The Programme was subsequently augmented by the inclusion of reviews of the Strategic Service Delivery Partnership and ICT Services.
3. The Committee was informed at that time of the work in hand to agree a new suite of reports to Cabinet and the Committee. This would be based on the Council's Annual Operating Plan and integrating risk, expenditure and the Local Public Service Agreement wherever possible. The Committee considered an Integrated Annual Outturn report in July 2005. A copy of the Integrated Performance Report for April – November 2005 appears elsewhere on this agenda.
4. The Committee was also informed last year that 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. This approach has still to be developed.
5. The Council's Corporate Assessment, referred to elsewhere on this agenda, contains a number of comments upon the role of the scrutiny function noting in particular a need for an increased focus on performance management. The Committee's work programme will need to reflect, as appropriate, issues identified in the resulting Improvement Plan.
6. The work programme of each Scrutiny Committee is summarised below, with more detailed programmes appended where available, to enable the Committee to fulfil the co-ordinating role prescribed for it in the Constitution.
7. **The Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee** has not yet prepared a detailed programme. However, in addition to monitoring performance and the Budget position the Committee has identified homelessness and learning disability Services as areas upon which it will wish to focus.
8. **The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee** considered and agreed its 2006/7 work programme on 16th December, 2005, which was prior to the publication of the Joint Area Review (JAR). A copy of the agreed programme is appended. The last

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

meeting in the current programme is due to meet on 13th March 2006, and proposed issues for scrutiny are: the Every Child Matters agenda and the Change for Children Programme alongside the outcome of the JAR, and Young People's Health e.g. teenage pregnancy; sex education; sexually transmitted diseases.

9. At its meeting on 16th December, 2005 the Committee also suggested the following issues to be taken into consideration as the programme evolves during the year: Pupil transition arrangements; Disruptive Behaviour in Schools (to be examined in a Committee workshop setting); implications arising from the Steiner School becoming an academy and School performance, particularly the 2005 exam results, including vocational training.
10. **The Community Services Scrutiny Committee** considered its 2006/7 work programme on 14th December, 2005. A copy of the agreed programme is appended. The last meeting in the current programme is due to be held on 24th March, 2006 and proposed issues for scrutiny are HALO; the report of the 18-35 Review Group; and the scoping of a proposed scrutiny review of the Museum Service.
11. Much of the 2006/7 work programme has been kept clear so that the Committee can focus on current issues for scrutiny within its remit.
12. **The Environment Scrutiny Committee** considered and agreed its 2006/7 work programme on 5th December 2005, as appended. The last meeting in the current programme is due to be held on 27th March, 2006 and proposed issues for scrutiny are: Clean Neighbourhoods and the Environment Act 2005 and regular monitoring items e.g. capital & revenue budgets, performance indicators; best value review improvements and contributions to the Herefordshire ambitions.
13. The following issues have also been identified for inclusion in the programme as it develops: issues arising from the Corporate Plan; Waste Management; implications of the 'Hampton Review' relating to regulatory inspections and enforcement; progress following the Parking Review; and progress with the Local Transport Plan 2. In view of ongoing concerns about safety on the A49 and A465 the Chairman will keep the question of a further scrutiny meeting with the Highways Agency under review.
14. **The Health Scrutiny Committee** has identified a number of meetings with health partners as part of its work programme to review progress and future proposed activity. It is hoped to draw on independent support available under the Health Support Programme to help inform the programme's development.

RECOMMENDATION

- THAT (a) the Committee's work programme be considered at a future date, reflecting where appropriate issues identified the Council's Improvement Plan, subject to any comments the Committee wishes to make; and**
- (b) the Committee note the position on the development of work programmes for the other Scrutiny Committees.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None