

WORK PROGRAMME

Report By: Director of Adult and Community Services

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

1. To consider the Committee's work programme.

Financial Implications

2. The cost of any work will be met from within existing resources.

Background

3. The Committee's current work programme is appended.
4. On 10th April, 2006 the Strategic Monitoring Committee agreed that an informal meeting of Members of the Strategic Monitoring Committee should be held to review the development of work programmes. It was recognised that the existing work programmes did not substantially reflect the Council-wide themes and issues identified as priority areas in the Council's Overall Improvement Plan, the Annual Operating Plan and the Herefordshire Community Strategy including the Local Area Agreement.
5. As reported to the Strategic Monitoring Committee on 26th June at that informal meeting Members were presented with a discussion paper setting out a number of possible themes for the scrutiny programme over the next year. Members expressed an interest in pursuing the following matters:
 - **Recycling:** How is it working? What message is the Council sending out (eg use of green recycling bags, opening hours for Recycling Centres and capacity.) Is the Council responding to the public's comments about the Council's approach? What are we doing, are we doing it well enough? What can be done to improve?
 - **Planning (Development Control) Policies:** What is the scope for local discretion, noting implications of some decisions on adult social care provision and other Council priorities?
 - **Understanding and Responding to Customers:** how well are we doing this?
 - **Every Child Matters:** Transition from Social Care to adult life. Exchange of information between Schools and Social Workers. Are the plans being put in place with the Council's partners working well in practice? Is the Council fulfilling its Corporate Parent Role?

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
Geoff Hughes, Director of Adult and Community Services
on 01432 260695

- **Older Peoples Strategy:** Is it robust enough, how does it fit with the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, what are the implications for other services?
 - **Improving Adult Social Care:** considering and commenting on the assessments of adult social care needs and services that are being produced, including the wider implications for health services and housing.
 - **Rural Schools Review:** Is the review addressing all the issues? What part do schools play in the Community? What is the link to other Council plans?
6. The two items identified which potentially could form part of this Committee's Work programme are the Older Peoples Strategy and Improving Adult Social Care. In addition the Strategic Monitoring Committee noted that the important issue of homelessness was already being dealt with by the Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee.
7. It was also suggested that a programme should be developed for testing whether plans and programmes are being delivered, and having desired practical impact on the user/customer, especially where they are particularly vulnerable or disadvantaged.
8. It was noted that there would be a number of ways in which the Scrutiny Committees could approach possible themes for the scrutiny work programme. It was suggested that the work need not necessarily take the form of large-scale in-depth reviews and that consideration should also be given to undertaking small-scale quick reviews to give the Committees a snapshot of performance in particular areas.
9. The outcome of a further informal meeting of members of the Strategic Monitoring Committee to consider how to progress these issues will be reported at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee considers its work programme.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None