

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 27th April 2011

Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme Update

Responsible Officer: Alex Dewsnap
Divisional Director, Partnership
Development and Performance

Scrutiny Lead All

Member area:

Exempt: No

Enclosures: None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report updates the Overview and Scrutiny committee on progress on the delivery of the scrutiny work programme.

Recommendations:

Councillors are asked to:

- I. Note progress on the delivery of the work
- II. Agree that the next phase of the scrutiny work programme comprises:
 - a. Standing review of the budget
 - b. Second phase of the Better Deal for Residents Standing Review
 - c. Second phase of the Performance Management Review
 - d. Snow clearance
 - e. Engaging with young people
- III. Agree to make allowance for the inclusion of the following projects where this is deemed appropriate following further investigation:
 - a. Disabled access
 - b. Health and housing
- IV. Request the scopes for the projects included under 'II' above be presented to the next normal meeting of the committee (14 June 2011) where necessary

Section 2 – Report

Since the last work programme report, the Overview and Scrutiny committee has undertaken the following projects:

- Standing review of the 'Better Deal for Residents' programme – phase one
- Implications of the HAVS investigation challenge panel
- Review of the council's performance management processes – phase one

This report updates the committee on progress on each of these projects.

All projects undertaken thus far have benefited from the inclusion of local people from the Scrutiny Pool of Advisors.

Standing review of the 'Better Deal for Residents' programme – phase one

The Overview and Scrutiny committee established this project to monitor the performance of the council's ambitious transformation programme. The council is required to identify significant levels of savings over the next 3 years and will only achieve these savings through radical transformation of services and a new relationship with residents. It is imperative that the programme is also considered by the scrutiny function in order to safeguard the best interests of local people.

The first phase of the review has focussed on the programme/project management process in place across the council through which the delivery of the programme is being monitored. Members of the group have met with project management professionals and also with the senior management of the organisation.

A report outlining the findings of this project is currently being drafted and will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny committee in June.

Implications of the HAVS investigation

As reported previously, this project was designed to consider implications of the HAVS investigation for the future relationship between the council and voluntary sector. The project had three components:

- grants administration– in particular monitoring processes
- training for trustees
- future arrangements for sector-wide representation.

In order to support the panel's investigation, the Internal Audit service undertook a review of the grants administration process to identify risks and potential mitigation of these risks.

The review group has now met and an initial draft report is being prepared. It is likely to be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny committee in June.

Review of the council's performance management processes – phase one

One of the initial actions of the new national government was a radical change to the public sector inspection and performance management regime. The Government announced the abolition of the national indicator set, Comprehensive Area Assessment and emphasised the importance of bottom up performance management with the creation of legions of 'armchair auditors'. This review has helped to shape the council's response to this change and the first phase considered how the council could reconstruct the indicator set operating locally. The report from this first phase was agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny committee in March and was considered by Cabinet in April.

Future Projects

Unlike previous years, the scrutiny work programme is now far more responsive to the changing local government environment. This means that, whilst an initial decision may have been taken by the committee to undertake a project, as circumstances have changed, councillors have chosen to defer, cancel or consider a project using different methodology, most usually by considering the issue at a committee meeting. This will continue to be the case as it is important for the committees' investigations to reflect the radically changing public sector landscape. The following projects have been dealt with in this way since the last report:

- Capital overspend – to be considered at a future meeting of the Performance and Finance sub committee
- Housing Ambition Programme – considered at the Performance and Finance sub committee in January

The projects below have been proposed for inclusion in the scrutiny work programme by the Scrutiny Leadership Group subject to the agreement of the Overview and Scrutiny committee

Standing review of the budget

Membership of this project comprises:

- Cllr Anderson
- Cllr Chana
- Cllr Ferrari
- Cllr Macleod-Cullinane
- Cllr Osborn
- Cllr Phillips
- Cllr Wright,

This project was agreed at the beginning of the administration in July 2010 but resources have not been available for it to commence. This situation has now been resolved and the group will begin to meet in the next month. Quarterly reports of the progress of this project will be made to the Overview and Scrutiny committee.

Standing review of the 'Better Deal for Residents' programme – phase two

Membership of this project comprises:

- Cllr Asante
- Cllr Chana
- Cllr Gate
- Cllr Macleod-Cullinane
- Cllr Osborn
- Cllr Phillips
- Cllr Krishna Suresh
- Cllr Wright

Phase two of this project will investigate the impact of the Better Deal for Residents on the community, our partners and staff and will investigate how far the programme has delivered its intended outcomes. The project is a long-term, standing review and as such quarterly reports of progress will be made to the Overview and Scrutiny committee during the lifetime of the programme.

Review of the council's performance management processes – phase two

Membership of this project comprises:

- Cllr Sue Anderson
- Cllr Nana Asante
- Cllr Kam Chana
- Cllr Susan Hall
- Cllr Jerry Miles
- Cllr Chris Mote
- Cllr Paul Osborn
- Cllr Stephen Wright

The second phase of the performance management review will consider what the council's future performance management framework could look like, how we make information available to local residents and the technological solutions which the council might like to use. A final report from this project is expected in September.

Snow Clearance

Membership of this project is still to be determined, members of the committee are invited to volunteer. The project will consider how effectively the council has been able to respond to the increasingly extreme winter weather conditions and identify any possible improvements which might be adopted in future. This is likely to take the form of a challenge panel which will be scheduled for June.

Engaging with young people

Membership of this project is still to be determined, members of the committee are invited to volunteer. The project will consider how effectively the council engages with younger residents.

In addition to these specific projects, the Leadership Group has proposed that the relevant committees consider the issues below in order to consider whether each merits more detailed consideration. If it is agreed that they should become specific projects then space will be identified in the work programme to accommodate them.

- Disabled access
- Health and housing

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report as all scrutiny projects are funded from within the existing scrutiny budget

Performance Issues

There are none specific to this report.

Environmental Impact

There is no environmental impact associated with this report.

Risk Management Implications

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

Equalities implications

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? Yes () No (✓)

If no, state why an EqlA was not carried out below:

This report makes no proposals with regard to service delivery.

Corporate Priorities

Please identify which corporate priority the report incorporates and how:

- Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe
- United and involved communities: a Council that listens and leads
- Supporting and protecting people who are most in need
- Supporting our Town Centre, our local shopping centres and businesses
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Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Not required for this report.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Lynne Margetts, Service Manager Scrutiny, 020 8420 9387

Background Papers: None