

Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

11 June 2012

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2012-13

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1. Introduction

1.1. The terms of reference for the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee includes developing mechanisms for addressing cross cutting issues and to prevent duplication. In-light of this the Committee are asked to review cross-cutting topics and identify how they will be taken forward.

2. Proposed Reviews

Corporate Services 2012-13

- Review 1 - Capital Programme including Asset Management, Lottery Funding and recession borrowing (Working Group)
- The following review topics should remain as review options to consider later in the year: Communications, Governance and Parish Services.

Communities 2012-13

- July Meeting -Revenues and Benefits
- September - Housing and Housing Associations
- Water and Waste (working Group)
- Youth Services (working Group)
- The Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee should meet in October to focus on CCTV and police numbers; and
- Community Buses should be the focus of one meeting, held in the rural area.

Regeneration and Economic Development 2012-13

- Review 1, Events & Tourism at the Visitor Information Centre
- Review 2 - Empty Properties subject to consideration by the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee, the Planning Process will be held as a reserve item.

3. Cross-Over

- 3.1. Regeneration and Economic Development have selected Empty Properties as their second topic for review, focussing on the impact on regeneration of returning empty homes to use. Housing falls within the remit of the Communities OSC and arguably this topic could be undertaken by that committee, such a review may include looking at housing policies and possible roles for the Council to assist vulnerable people. To avoid duplication the Coordinating Committee are asked to agree that either the work is undertaken by a joint working group or delegate the review completely to Regeneration and Economic Development.
- 3.2. Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee have selected community buses as a meeting topic from the perspective of social inclusion and vulnerable people. Transport and public transport however rests with Regeneration and Economic Development (RED) and any recommendations developed may have bearing on the integrated transport strategy which will be considered by RED in November. The best way forward with this would be for the communities OSC to ensure its findings are reported to RED to avoid duplication and ensure a coordinated approach. An alternative would be to hold this meeting as a joint committee.

4. Joint Committee Proposal

- 4.1. On reviewing the forward plan the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee identified the Gypsy and Traveller Sites planned decision for 11 July as an item for scrutiny. As this matter falls within both Communities and RED's remit it is suggested that a joint committee meeting be held to consider the item prior to Cabinet.

5. Governance review

- 5.1. The scrutiny Coordinating Committee at the end of the last municipal year considered a review of the overview and scrutiny structure. In light of the wider implications of the Localism Act, some members view of backbench member engagement in decision making and a motion to council to review returning to the committee system, it was agreed that there should be a review of the governance model for the council. Corporate Services have considered the review topic but have not taken it forward as a review item. The Coordinating Committee is requested to consider whether there should be a scrutiny led review of governance and setting up a joint working group to carry this out.