

Maidstone Borough Council

Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 23 May 2012

Work Programming 2012-2013

Report of: Overview & Scrutiny Officer

1. Introduction

To consider topics for the Committee's work programme in the 2012/13 municipal year

2. Recommendation

2.1 That Members:

- Consider the suggested review topics and suggest any other topics they wish to review in 2012-13;
- Determine which review topics to include in the Committee's work programme for 2012-13; and
- Consider the terms of reference for topics selected.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 The Scrutiny Committees are required to create a work programme for the next municipal year. The scrutiny team have received a number of topic review suggestions from the public, Members and Officers.

3.2 In order to provide some background information regarding priority areas and responsibilities, included in this report is the following information:

- The Committee's remit;
- Relevant issues referred to the Committee by the 2011/12 Overview and Scrutiny Committees;
- Suggested topics for review (as submitted so far); and
- The Council's vision and key objectives as identified in the Strategic Plan.

3.3 Members of the scrutiny team will lead a workshop with the Committee to gather ideas, explore suggestions in more detail and to agree which topics to review during its 2012/13 work programme.

4 Setting the Work Programme

- 4.1 Unfortunately the Committee does not have the time or resources available to review all of those topics identified by Members as of interest. The Committee is therefore required to select the topics for review it feels are most important for 2012-13. Members should consider, first and foremost, the outcomes that could be achieved.
- 4.2 The Committee can choose a number of topics for the 2012-13 Municipal Year; these will be completed by the Committee as a Task and Finish Panel outside the traditional Committee setting. Only one review topic will be undertaken at any one time.
- 4.3 The draft work programme shown at Appendix B includes the Committee's statutory role to act as the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee and scrutinise the Safer Maidstone Partnership. In addition to this, the Committee may wish to scrutinise items on the Council's Forward Plan. The draft work programme can be used to help the Members set a timescale for review topics by allocating a Committee meeting to which completed review reports can be presented to Committee.
- 4.4 The complete work programme does not need to be drawn up immediately; Members are recommended to allow some flexibility in the work programme to allow for new issues to arise.
- 4.5 Suggested Topics for Review
- Attached at Appendix A.

5. Impact on Corporate Objectives

- 5.1 The Committee will consider reports that deliver against the following Council priority:
- For Maidstone to be a decent place to live.
- 5.2 The Strategic Plan sets the Council's key objectives for the medium term and has a range of objectives which support the delivery of the Council's priorities. Actions to deliver these key objectives may therefore include work that this Committee consider over the next year.

Appendices

- Suggested topics for review – Appendix A
- Draft work programme – Appendix B
- Committee's terms of reference – Appendix C
- The Council's priorities and outcomes as identified in the Strategic Plan – Appendix D
- The Forward Plan, 1 May 2012 to 31 August 2013, Appendix E