

Committee: Scrutiny

Agenda Item

Date: 14 April 2009

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Title: Scrutiny Work Programme

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Summary

- 1 This report sets out a draft programme of work for 2009/10 and seeks to confirm the approach for involving members.

Recommendation

- 2 That the committee considers and determines its work programme.

Background Papers

- 3 None

Impact

4

Communication/Consultation	Strategic Management Board have approved the draft work programme
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Finance	It is intended that any actions arising from this report are funded from existing budgets.
Human Rights	None
Legal implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

Possible areas of work

- 5 The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Committee include “to monitor and review policy and advise policy committees and/or the Council as appropriate”.
- 6 Some possible areas of work are set out in the attached appendix. Items should be undertaken as a discrete piece of work, which would not only help to develop the approach to scrutiny, but would also provide useful contributions to areas of policy development. A review of the following areas are considered particularly useful by Strategic Management Board and somewhere the Scrutiny Committee could take a leading role:

- A review of day centres – with particular reference to achieving long term and sustainable management arrangements with voluntary groups, improving community access and extending building use.
- A review of allotment land in Uttlesford – nationally, demand for allotment land is reportedly exceeding demand as an increasing number of people consistently choose to grow their own produce.
- A review of Trading Standard activity in the district – with particular reference to work recently carried out to protect consumers in Uttlesford.

Terms of reference for agreed areas of work for 2009/10 could be brought to the next committee meeting.

- 7 In addition, the work undertaken on fees and charges in 2008/09 needs to continue, with a view to bringing it to a conclusion. There also remains the potential for joint work with other organisations on health scrutiny.

The approach

- 8 Members of the committee could again have an ongoing involvement in a chosen project, rather than awaiting reports from meeting to meeting. The approach of involving a small group of three or four members of the committee to work with the appropriate officer(s) was trialled during 2008/09 and gave an opportunity for those who wished to do so to become involved in the work of the committee over a period of time.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
That work is not satisfactorily concluded and therefore does not assist the Council in policy development.	1	2	The Committee ensures that work on its programme is undertaken, as planned