

Committee: Scrutiny

Agenda Item

Date: 11 February 2010

6

Title: Work programme - update

Author: Simon Martin, Head of Customer Support & Revenue Services, 01799 510422 Item for decision

Summary

1. The appendix to this report provides details of progress on scrutiny work carried out during 2009/10. Officers will shortly be in a position to start a new review.

Recommendations

2. Members determine the next scrutiny review(s).

Background Papers

3. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

Previous scrutiny committee agenda and minutes.

Impact

- 4.

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Communication/Consultation | Key stakeholders should be consulted as part of a scrutiny review. |
| Community Safety | None directly identified but may be review specific. |
| Equalities | None directly identified but may be review specific. |
| Finance | Any financial implications identified during the course of a scrutiny review should be met from within existing budget. |
| Health and Safety | None directly identified but may be review specific. |
| Human Rights/Legal Implications | None directly identified but may be review specific. |
| Sustainability | None directly identified but may be review specific. |
| Ward-specific impacts | None directly identified but may be review specific. |
| Workforce/Workplace | None directly identified but may be review specific. |

Situation

5. Good progress is being made with the committee's work programme (attached). The review of day centres is due for sign off at the next committee meeting in April. Whilst there may be value in some residual day centre review tasks continuing beyond that date, the committee's officer resource will shortly be in a position to start a new review. The work programme currently comprises of a number of task and finish reviews, and reviews based upon invited witnesses attending committee to provide Members with information and an opportunity to ask questions.

6. In addition to the reviews currently in the work programme, Members may like to note the scrutiny review work carried out at other councils. These subjects may be of interest to Members in which case they can be added to this Council's own work programme for further consideration.
 - *Community Support to older people* (a task group investigated the capacity of community organisations to develop more community-based support to older people. Members heard evidence from representatives from wide range of community organisations).
 - *Review of CCTV* (a Community Safety Select Committee undertook a review of CCTV use and strategy in a borough council).
 - *Enforcement priorities* (a review of enforcement activity and areas which would potentially benefit from being given a greater priority was carried out).
 - *Sickness absence management* (examined sickness absence levels and absence management in a council).
 - *Recruitment and retention* (a review to ensure a council could recruit and retain qualified, experienced and able people in order to achieve ambitions and priorities).
 - *Countryside matters* (a broad review of rural issues, use of parks and open spaces).
 - *Voter turnout* (comparison of voter turnout with others, short term measures to increase turnout, long term methods to increase registration and turnout).
 - *Emergency planning & business continuity* (review of a council's internal arrangements for ensuring business continuity in the event of a disaster or emergency).

The above suggestions are by no means exhaustive and Members are invited to propose their own scrutiny reviews for adding to the work programme.

Risk Analysis

7.

| Risk | Likelihood | Impact | Mitigating actions |
|---------------------------------|------------|--------|------------------------------------|
| That work is not satisfactorily | 1 | 2 | The Committee ensures that work on |

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| concluded and therefore does not assist the Council in policy development. | | | its programme is undertaken, as planned. |
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1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.