

Committee: Scrutiny

Agenda Item

Date: 18 April 2012

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Title: Scrutiny Committee 2012/13 Review and 2013/14 Plan

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Item for decision

Summary

1. This report provides an overview of the Scrutiny Committee's work during 2012/13 and the proposed work programme for 2013/14.

Recommendations

2. The Scrutiny Committee proposes and agrees five scrutiny reviews and two reserves for 2013/14.

Financial Implications

3. None. There are no costs associated with the recommendations

Background Papers

4. None

Impact

Communication/Consultation	None
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

5. During 2012/13, the Scrutiny Committee has received reports and presentations from a number of outside bodies including the East of England Ambulance Service, Essex Police and West Essex PCT (now NHS England). The subjects covered included:
 - a. GP accessibility in growth areas
 - c. Ambulance cover, emergency response times in rural areas and station closures.
 - e. GP provision and the future of the PCT
 - f. Police station closures, staffing cuts and the impact on crime figures and response times.
6. The committee has also scrutinised a number of internal services and service change proposals. These include
 - a. Local Development Framework
 - b. Jubilee Fund
 - c. Municipal Waste Management Strategy
 - d. New waste collection arrangements
 - e. Homelessness
 - f. Highways Strategic Partnership
 - g. Car Park charges
 - h. Enforcement of fly parking
 - i. 2013/14 budget proposals including General Fund, Capital and HRA
7. To continue with the positive work of the Scrutiny Committee it is proposed for the coming year to set five scrutiny reviews and agree a forward work programme.
8. The following areas have been proposed as potentially suitable for review:
 - a. Housing register
 - b. Welfare reforms
 - c. Rural deprivation
 - d. Drugs and young people
 - e. Whole Essex Community Budget
 - f. Police Crime Commissioner
9. Members are asked to propose any additional areas they wish to be considered for review. Once all suggestions have been discussed, members must agree their top five (plus two reserves) and to schedule them in order of priority for the forthcoming year.
10. Forward planning will enable any necessary investigation to be carried out in advance of the meeting. This will also enable key speakers to be arranged with plenty of notice.

11. Once the work plan has been agreed, a scoping document for each review will be produced and presented at the scrutiny meeting in advance of the full report. The document outlines the areas to be covered and will enable Members to confirm it meets their expectations.
12. The scoping document will be supplied to outside bodies for external reviews. The organisations will be asked to supply a written report for Members to review prior to the meeting. If the report does not satisfy the terms of reference in the scoping document, then the outside body will be invited to the following scrutiny meeting.
13. In addition to the scrutiny reviews there will also be other areas of planned work coming to the Committee. These are shown in Appendix One.

Appendix One

Date	11 June 2013	3 September 2013	15 October 2013	26 November 2013	6 February 2014	29 April 2014
Other Areas	Police Crime Commissioner Update/Questions			Budget Process – Preparatory report and briefing (Stephen Joyce)	Budget (Stephen Joyce)	Scrutiny 2013/14 Review and Work Programme 2014/15
	Highways Consultation Responses					
	Tenant Scrutiny Panel Introduction					
	East of England Ambulance Service review and update					
	Highways Strategic Partnership - Scoping report					