

Committee: Scrutiny

Agenda Item

Date: 15 March 2016

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Title: Scrutiny Committee 2015/16 Review

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Item for information

Summary

1. This report provides a summary of the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee in 2015/16 and asks the committee to begin considering the 2016/17 work programme.

Recommendations

2. None

Financial Implications

3. None.

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. Membership of the Scrutiny Committee has changed since the elections in May 2015, with only four of the pre-election committee returning to it for the 2015/16 Council year.
6. With more than half of the committee either new to Scrutiny or returning to the committee after some years away, officers arranged training to be held at the committee's first meeting in June 2015. The training was well-attended and well-received.
7. Subsequently, the committee established a work programme and has scrutinised several areas of Council work.
8. The main areas of the committee's work in 2015/16 were as follows:
 - Received the final report from the Planning Advisory Service on the council's Local Plan
 - Surveyed all members on topics potentially suitable for Scrutiny review and established a Task and Finish Group to evaluate those suggestions
 - Established a new standing item through which Cabinet Members can be invited to update the committee on particular topics
 - Considered the outcome of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme consultation
 - Considered the draft Air Quality Action Plan
 - Established a Task and Finish Group to review the Enforcement service
 - Scrutinised the draft 2016/17 Budget
 - Accepted a report concluding the Car Park review previously carried out by the Scrutiny Committee
9. The following topics have been agreed by the committee as being suitable areas of work and have been timetabled:
 - Building Control partnership
 - The 2017/18 Local Council Tax Support Scheme
 - Review of the Cabinet system
 - Quiet Lanes
 - The relationship between Essex County Council and Uttlesford District Council
10. The following topics were identified as potentially being suitable for review but have not yet been timetabled:
 - Affordable housing provision (the committee has agreed it should wait until the position on the Housing Act is clear)
 - Evaluation of controls in place regarding information provided by developers
 - Methods used to assess sustainability in planning applications

- Possibilities around enhancing the council's recycling and waste collection scheme
- The Council Tax arrears collection process
- Community engagement (the committee has agreed this should be put on hold until the Constitution Working Group has done its work on the subject)
- The North Essex Parking Partnership

11. Attached as Appendix A is a draft work programme for 2016/17 which currently only includes those agenda items officers know will need to be timetabled, such as the 2017/18 budget.

Risk analysis

There are no risks associated with this report.