

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14

Date: 5 August 2013

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To update Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Scrutiny work programme.

2. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

2.1 Scrutiny in Committee

It has been agreed that the on- going Scrutiny of specific service areas within individual Portfolios would be dealt with at the Scrutiny Committee itself, rather than in working groups. Additional Scrutiny will only be conducted if deemed necessary by the Committee. A rolling programme of attendance by Portfolio Holders and relevant Corporate Directors has been arranged and Members will be asked prior to each meeting which specific service areas they would like to examine.

| Date of OSC | Corporate Director attending | Service Area | Responsible Portfolio Holder |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 7 October | Mark Kimberley | Audit and Risk Managem't Customer Services and IT Financial Services Revenue Services | Cllr. Clarke Cllr. Payne Cllr. Clarke Cllrs Clarke/ Hollingsworth |
| 9 December | Dave Wakelin | Parks and Street Care Public Protection Waste Services Asset Management | Cllr Barnes Cllr Payne Cllr Barnes Cllr Barnes |

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|----------|------------------|---|--|
| 10 March | Paula Darlington | Housing and Localities Leisure and Culture Planning and Economic Development Community Engagement | Cllrs Hollingsworth/Fox Fox, Pulk, Hollingsworth Cllr Pulk Cllr Fox |
| 12 May | Stephen Bray | Communications Elections and Members Services Organisational Development | Cllr Payne Cllr Fox Cllr Fox |

Additional Portfolio Holder information attached: Appendix 1

The Council Leader John Clarke along with the Corporate Director for Financial and Revenue Services has been invited to attend the October 7th meeting. Members are required to consider specific issues they would like to focus on.

Possible areas for examination could include:

- Shared Services, which includes:
 - Payroll
 - Procurement
 - IT
 - Customer Services
 - Co-location DWP/CCG/Police
- Treasury Management
- Benefits and Council Tax
- Audit and Risk management
- Any other issues that members would like to examine.

Members are also asked to discuss and make suggestions for service areas they would like to examine at future meetings and consider which Portfolio Holders they would like to invite.

Waste services has already been agreed as an issue Members would like to examine at the December meeting. In addition at this meeting Members may want to consider the work of the community safety partnership. Under the 2006 Police and Justice Act councils have an obligation to scrutinise community safety partnerships, as the Corporate Director with responsibility for Public Protection is already attending the December meeting Members may want to take the opportunity to fulfil this requirement. Relevant Portfolio Holders will also be invited.

2.2 Scrutiny in Working Groups

Under the new Scrutiny arrangements, it is expected that up to three additional in-depth reviews would be carried out by appointed working groups each year. Given that the Council's own services will now largely be dealt with at the Overview Scrutiny Committee additional reviews should ideally be outward looking, focussing on broader concern to residents of the Borough, examining the role and evidence of other key agencies. Examples of these include:

- Transport links to/from the Borough
- Unemployment in the Borough
- Homelessness and Hardship in the borough

Members at the June Overview meeting resolved that **Homelessness and Hardship in the Borough** be adopted as the first in-depth review and nominations for the working group are invited from members of the Overview Scrutiny Committee prior to requesting involvement with wider Members not currently sitting on Overview or Cabinet.

Members are invited to consider and discuss future topics for in- depth review and nominate working group members.

2.3 Covalent Performance Monitoring Report: Quarter 1 2013/14

Members have the opportunity to review the quarterly Performance Digest which is available under "**Our priorities, plans and performance/performance management**".

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:

- Agree specific issues relating to the Leaders Portfolio and financial services they would like to discuss at the next meeting
- Consider areas for examination at future meetings
- Nominate members to the **Homelessness and Hardship in the borough** working group
- Discuss and agree topics for future in-depth review and nominate membership
- Consider the Covalent Performance Monitoring Report.