

**Report to:** Overview Scrutiny Committee

**Subject:** Scrutiny Work Programme

**Date:** 10 June 2013

**Author:** Councillor M. Hope

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To update Members of the Overview Scrutiny Committee on current and future Scrutiny activity.

## **2. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13**

The 2012/13 Scrutiny Work Programme is now winding up. The final reports and recommendations of the reviews listed below will be considered at the Overview Scrutiny Committee on 4th Aug 2013:

- Hackney Carriages
- Localism, Planning and Housing (final meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> July 2013)
- Inclusion and Equality
- The Council's Engagement with the Voluntary Sector
- Covert Surveillance (follow up)

As previously agreed, the follow - up of completed reviews will in future be conducted by the Overview Scrutiny Committee using a standard check list. Working group chairs will be invited to attend.

### **Items carried forward to the 2013/14 programme:**

- The Council's Waste Strategy
- How the Council communicates and consults with citizens and communities (to be dealt with at this meeting).
- The Scrutiny Annual Report

**Work programme attached: Appendix 1.**

### **3. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14**

#### **3.1 Scrutiny at 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 would only be conducted if deemed necessary by the Committee. To this end, a rolling programme of attendance by Portfolio Holders and relevant Corporate Directors will commence with immediate effect and Members are now asked to consider which service areas they would like to examine.

**(Portfolio information attached: Appendix 2)**

#### **3.2 Scrutiny in working groups**

Under the proposed 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 largely be dealt with at Overview Scrutiny Committee, the additional reviews should ideally be outward looking, focussing on broader issues of concern to residents of the Borough and examining the role and evidence of other key agencies. Examples of these would include:

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

Working groups will be nominated in the usual way, with an open and regular call for the involvement of those wider Members not currently sitting on Overview Scrutiny Committee or Cabinet. Members are asked to consider and make suggestions on subject areas for in depth review.

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members consider this report and offer suggestions with regard to the 2013/14 Scrutiny work programme as follows:

- An area of service within each Portfolio which Overview Scrutiny might examine at Committee meetings as part a rolling programme of challenge to the Council's Executive.
- Up to three broader subject areas that might be appropriate for in depth review by appointed Scrutiny working groups.

### **5. APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1:** Scrutiny Work Programme 2012/13

**Appendix 2:** List of Portfolios