

**TITLE OF REPORT: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
2011/12**

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY OFFICER

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report invites the Committee to review its work programme for the remainder of 2011/12. The Committee is asked to consider:
- which topics to scrutinise at its remaining meetings;
 - which task and finish groups it wishes to undertake after the street cleansing review is complete; and
 - which portfolio holders to invite to its remaining meetings in 2012.

2. FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

3. PROGRAMME FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 3.1 The Committee is invited to consider items at its meetings for the remainder of 2011/12. The Committee's current work programme can be found in table 1 of **Appendix A** to this report. The draft forward plan for January 2012 is at **Appendix B**.
- 3.2 The Portfolio Holder for Policy, Cllr Claire Strong has been invited to attend the Committee's meeting on 17 January. The Committee is invited to:
- Choose two areas for Cllr Strong to talk about; and
 - consider which portfolio holders to invite to its meetings in February and March 2012.
- Cllr Strong's responsibilities are listed in table 3 of Appendix A.

4. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

- 4.1 Two of the three task and finish groups chosen by the committee at its meeting in June are complete. The report of the review of communication and consultation will come to the Committee's meeting on 17 January. The review of street cleansing will consist of up to 4 meetings over a period of eight weeks starting in December.
- 4.2 The Committee will recall that to avoid unnecessary duplication, it deferred consideration of a task and finish group on the Council's use of consultants until a report had been prepared for the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee on 19 September; and decided not to proceed with a review of the Council's consultation arrangements for the time being.
- 4.3 The Committee is invited to consider which further topics it would like to scrutinise as task and finish groups. The following topics have already been suggested:
- use of consultants;
 - consultation arrangements;
 - impact of grant levels on the effectiveness of voluntary and community bodies;

- implementation of the Council's green issues priority;
- revenue budget making processes;
- neighbourhood policing;
- future arrangements for the Standards Board;
- review of the Constitution;
- housing policy;
- exercise facilities for older people;
- the impact of budget realignment in respect of grant funding;
- NHDC's internal charging system.

5. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Members are asked to review and update the Committee's work programme for 2011/12. This will include selecting two topics for Cllr Strong to address; and choosing which portfolio holders to invite to future meetings.

7.2 Members are asked to choose which topics should be scrutinised as task and finish groups.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 To enable the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to plan its workload effectively.

9. CONTACT OFFICERS

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10. APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix A – Current work programme for 2011/12

10.2 Appendix B – Draft forward plan for January 2012