

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No.
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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY OFFICER

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report invites the Committee to consider its work programme for 2012/13.

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 which items to scrutinise at its future meetings. A draft work programme can be found in table 1 of **Appendix A** to this report. The forward plan for June 2012 is at **Appendix B**.

3.2 The Committee is invited to consider which portfolio holders to invite to its future meetings. The Portfolio holders who attended in the last civic year were:

- July 2011: Cllr Bernard Lovewell – Portfolio Holder for Housing and Environmental Health
- September 2011: Cllr Terry Hone – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and IT
- December 2011: Cllr Lynda Needham – Leader of the Council
- January 2012: Cllr Claire Strong – Portfolio Holder for Policy
- February 2012: Cllr Tom Brindley - Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transport and Economic Development
- March 2012: Cllr Ian Knighton - Portfolio Holder for Leisure

3.3 It is traditional to invite the Leader of the Council to an early meeting of the Committee. It has also been some time since the Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement and Rural Affairs last attended a meeting of the Committee, so members may wish to invite her to attend in the near future.

4. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

4.1 The Committee has chosen to consider housing policy as its next task and finish group and this will take place in June 2012. The scoping document was circulated to members of the committee after its last meeting in March and members did not make any comments on it.

4.2 The task and finish group will scrutinise a developing policy area and give its views direct to housing policy officers. The task and finish group's views will help shape a report which officers are preparing for consideration by Cabinet in July. This will short circuit the usual arrangements for reporting the outcomes of task and finish groups: instead of agreeing a final report which is commented on by SMT and approved by this committee prior to consideration by Cabinet, the task and finish group will make

its views known direct to housing policy officers. The scrutiny officer will bring a report on the outcome of the task and finish group to the committee's meeting in July.

- 4.3 The other task and finish groups agreed this year are:
- neighbourhood policing;
 - implementation of the Council's green issues policy;
 - the impact of budget alignment in respect of grant funding;
 - possibly a joint scrutiny with Cambridgeshire councils on the Cambridgeshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

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.

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 – Draft Work Programme for 2012/13
10.2 Appendix B – Forward Plan for June 2012