

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
3 DECEMBER 2013**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

17

TITLE OF REPORT: 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 2013/14.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- a) discuss which task and finish group(s) to do next;
- b) review the Committee's existing work programme for 2013/14 at **Appendix A** in conjunction with the Forward Plan at **Appendix B**.
- c) note the report of Hertfordshire County Council's (HCC's) Scrutiny Committee's review of 20 mph limits and the Speed Management Strategy at **Appendix C**;

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 The contents of the work programme will be subject to a full discussion of the members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

5.1 None.

6. FORWARD PLAN

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

7. PROGRAMME FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

7.1 The existing work programme is attached at **Appendix A** and the Forward Plan for 15 November is at **Appendix B**. The Committee is invited to consider which items to scrutinise at its meetings for the remainder of 2013/14.

8. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

Current Task and Finish Group Programme

- 8.1 The Chair of the task and finish group on **the Council's website and Citrix connection** considered that there was too much material to consider in a single evening. The review will now take place over two evenings: the website on 11 December and the Citrix connection on a date in January to be agreed. A report should be ready for the Committee's consideration at its meeting in March.

Possible Topics for Future Task and Finish Groups

- 8.2 The Committee will need to consider which topic(s) to look at once the review of the Council's website and Citrix connection is complete. This report asks the Committee to discuss possible topics so arrangements for the next one can begin before its next meeting in January.
- 8.3 The task and finish groups on **debt advice** and **community rights** have been deferred, the former to allow benefit changes to bed in, the latter because very few community groups have exercised the new community rights and there are very few examples for a review to consider.
- 8.4 Previous suggestions for task and finish groups have been:
- **alternative service delivery**, although SMT intends to consider this in due course; and
 - the management of the **social housing waiting list**.
- 8.5 Given its recent interest enterprise issues, the Committee may wish to consider whether there is value in looking at **partnership working with Jobcentre Plus**; or **Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)** in North Hertfordshire.

9. REVIEW OF HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S (HCC'S) SPEED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

- 9.1 The report of HCC's topic group on 20 mph limits is attached at **Appendix C**. The recommendations can be found at section 2 of the report. Cllr Ray Shakespeare-Smith gave evidence on behalf of NHDC's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 9.2 The report has been sent to County Cllr Terry Douris, HCC's Executive Member for Highways and Transport, who will decide whether to accept the recommendations or not. He will advise HCC's Scrutiny Officer of his decision by 12 January 2014.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 None.

11. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 None.

12. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 None.

13. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The Equality Act 2010 came into force on the 1 October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a new Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on the 5 April 2011. There is a general duty, described below, that public bodies must meet, and this is underpinned by more specific duties which are designed to help meet them.
- 13.2 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of its functions: give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 13.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

14. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 There are no social value implications arising from this report.

15. CONTACT OFFICERS

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16. APPENDICES

- 16.1 Appendix A – Work Programme for Committee Meetings
- 16.2 Appendix B - Forward Plan for 15 November 2013
- 16.3 Appendix C – 20 mph Report