

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
17 MARCH 2015**

**\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM No.**

**16**

**TITLE OF REPORT: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME  
REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY OFFICER**

**1. SUMMARY**

1.1 The Committee's draft work programme for 2015/16.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- review its work programme for 2015/16 at Appendix A in conjunction with the Forward Plan at Appendix B;
- consider which task and finish groups to undertake in the next civic year; and
- decide which topics it would like the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enterprise, Cllr David Levett, to speak to when he attends the Committee's meeting in June.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 To enable the Committee to plan its work effectively.

**4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

4.1 None.

**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 work programme is set out in **Appendix A**. The Committee is invited to consider which items to scrutinise at its meeting in June and beyond in conjunction with the Forward Plan for 27 February 2015 at **Appendix B**.

- 7.2 The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enterprise, Cllr David Levett, is due to attend the Committee's meeting in June. Originally, the Committee asked Cllr Levett to cover those aspects of his portfolio not concerned with the Local Plan, and in particular to cover two specific topics in his presentation:
- the Council's approach to dealing with trees and high hedges; and
  - renewables, particularly the prospect of solar panels and wind turbines becoming redundant in 25 years time and land owners or operators not paying for their removal.
- 7.3 After Cllr Levett attendance in January was deferred, the Committee decided to ask Cllr Levett to attend in the summer and to provide an update on the Local Plan. Does the Committee wish Cllr Levett to cover any other topics apart from those already mentioned?

## **8. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS**

- 8.1 Two task and finish groups are at different stages of progress at the time of writing:
- The Task and Finish Group on the Commercialisation of Council Services met on 25 February and will hold a second and final meeting shortly. A report will come to the Committee in June or July; and
  - The Task and Finish Group on the Quality of Council Reports will be held on a single evening. A scope has been prepared for the consideration and approval of the Chairman of the Task and Finish group and the date for the meeting will be arranged shortly.
- 8.2 The Committee will also need to consider which task and finish groups to undertake in the next civic year and this is a topic which can be discussed at the meeting.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 None.

## **10. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 None.

## **11. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 None.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 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.
- 12.2 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.

12.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

**13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 There are no social value implications arising from this report.

**14. APPENDICES**

14.1 Appendix A – Draft Work Programme for Committee Meetings 2015/16

14.2 Appendix B – Forward Plan for 27 February 2015

**15. CONTACT OFFICERS**

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**16. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

16.1 None.