

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Purpose

1. To report on the actions taken since the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny (OS) Management Committee on 30 May and the initial conclusions reached. To also seek the views of the Management Committee on what further progress needs to be made in the development of its work programme.

Background

2. Council agreed revised OS arrangements on 15 May following a lengthy review. These were reported to the first meeting of the new OS Management Committee on 30 May along with a list of core values and specific developments and improvements expected by Council (copy attached for ease of reference - Appendix A). In discussion the following were particularly highlighted:
 - OS should be seen as an integral part of decision-making and the overall good governance of the Council
 - OS should add value by focusing on the big, important matters
 - All should work together to ensure that OS operates effectively
 - Single OS work programme controlled by the Management Committee with less topics to allow for more in-depth policy development linked to priorities the Business Plan (including our partners)
3. A brief report on a proposed approach to the handling of legacy issues from the previous arrangements and the development of a single work programme was also agreed by the Management Committee on 30 May (copy attached for ease of reference - Appendix B).

Action Taken

4. In accordance with the agreed approach, meetings have been arranged to start the process of developing the work programme under each of the select committees in order to report initial views back to this meeting of the Management Committee both on legacy and future priority topics. This should then provide the Management Committee with the information it needs to draw up a single over-arching work programme and co-ordinate activity and resources. The corporate views of CLT and Cabinet Liaison have been sought as well as a meeting of the ELT Working Party supporting implementation of the outcome of the OS review. Meetings held/planned between leading OS

members, Cabinet members and service directors are as follows (attendees in brackets):

Management Committee – 25 June (Cllrs Trevor Carbin, Tony Deane and John Noeken)

Health Select Committee – 13 June (Cllrs Peter Hutton and Jane Burton and Christine Graves – apologies Cllrs John Thomson and Jemima Milton)

Environment Select Committee – 9 July (will be reported)

Children's Services Select Committee – 16 July (will be reported)

5. The outcome of these meetings in terms of recommended topics (predominately from legacy) are shown in Appendix C attached (additional information from the above meetings will be added when known).
6. The ELT Working Party met on 19 June chaired by Ian Gibbons, Service Director with the following key outcomes:
 - WP felt that the members and, in particular the Management Committee, would benefit from training on the new
 - The Leader should be consulted about her views on what areas she feels scrutiny can add value during policy development
 - Conversation was needed at CLT/Cabinet Liaison about being proactive around the new arrangements and being more disciplined about Cabinet forward work plan
 - Agenda management was seen as vital, including the use of other forms of communications for information/progress items
 - A move in the direction of splitting overview from scrutiny in the work programme and on agendas seen as positive step
 - ELT Working Party no longer required in present form but officers to continue to support implementation of the new arrangements on an individual basis
7. CLT/Cabinet Liaison met on 2 July at which the new OS arrangements were raised. Discussion covered the following matters:
 - Core values and improvements agreed by Council
 - Approach to legacy and development of future work programme agreed by the Management Committee
 - Positive work needs to be demonstrated early
 - Tight management of the work programme and hence impact and resources is needed
 - Examples of high-level priorities might be community infrastructure levy, housing allocations, welfare reform, job creation and economic development, shaping the future council, highway repairs and maintenance, transformation and campuses and safeguarding (including Ofsted)

Further Evidence

8. A full list of topics from the previous 4 select committees under the old arrangements is available to see using the following [link](#):
9. The current Cabinet Forward Work Plan can also be viewed [here](#):
10. Earlier on today's agenda is the Business Plan annual update report which again provides valuable information on priorities and performance against stated objectives.
11. A number of Cabinet Members and senior officers are likely to be in attendance at today's meeting and therefore can helpfully contribute to discussions on priorities for overview and scrutiny.

Next Steps

12. The Management Committee, armed with the outcome of this initial work as summarised above, is asked to consider the content of Appendix C (and the additional information to be supplied following further meetings) both in terms of legacy and new future topics.
13. In agreeing a preliminary list of topics overall it will be important for the Management Committee to encourage select committees (and task groups) to focus on why the Council (and its partners) does things including does it achieve the outcomes intended, rather than concentrate on how it does things ie. the processes surrounding delivery.
14. The Management Committee might also give direction on how the work programme should be further developed.

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