

Forward Work Programme

Purpose of report

1. To report on the overview and scrutiny work programme as agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee at its meeting on 23 May 2013.

Background

1. The current Environment Select Committee was formed following a review of the overview and scrutiny arrangements in May 2012, when it was agreed that the approach to the development of future work programmes should be as follows:
 - a) A single work programme to be developed, co-ordinated and controlled by the Management Committee;
 - b) The work programme to be developed in consultation with the Cabinet and Corporate Leadership Team/Extended Leadership Team, linked to the Business Plan (focusing on policy development and outcomes);
 - c) Each select committee to recommend content, subject to endorsement by the Management Committee;
 - d) The relevant chairman and vice-chairman to set agendas for their select committees based on the agreed work programme;
 - e) The committees should be mindful of the number of task groups running at any one time, matched to resources and councillor capacity.
2. Since then the Environment Select Committee has been responsible for the following topics in the work programme.
 - a) Air Quality
 - b) Review of Bus Services
 - c) Community Infrastructure Levy
 - d) Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Plans
 - e) Street Light Savings
 - f) Highways and Amenities Contract Update
 - g) Waste – future service delivery project
 - h) Energy Efficient Homes
 - i) ECO Team Development.
3. In the run up to Council elections in May 2013, the Management Committee asked that each of the select committees review their respective parts of the then current work programme and recommend ongoing pieces of work for

possible inclusion in the overview and scrutiny work programme of the new Council. The Environment Select Committee had been planning for this situation and by February 2013 it had completed much of its work. However, there were some topics that were being considered by task groups whose work would need to continue into the new Council; the position reached on each was reported on 4 April 2013. Each task group, in reporting to the Environment Select Committee, made a number of recommendations which are included in Appendix 1. Should members require more information on each task group the final reports can be viewed on the intranet.

4. The Environment Select Committee subsequently agreed to forward the following topics to the Management Committee for approval for inclusion in the forward work programme in the new Council as legacy items.
 - a) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
 - b) Waste – future service delivery
 - c) Air Quality (joint with the Health Select Committee)
 - d) Development Control and delivery of adoptable estates

Task Groups existed in respect of items a – c, item d was a new item on which work had yet to start.

Post elections

5. The new Management Committee, on 23 May 2013, agreed to the work programme proposed by the former Management Committee and that the select committees should be advised accordingly.
6. The Management Committee also agreed to consider topics for the work programme that had been raised at the O & S Induction Event held on 16 May. Topics raised that fall within the remit of this Committee are as follows:
 - Availability of affordable housing and allocation of social housing
 - The amount of green and recreational spaces, particularly sports pitches
 - The impact of large developments on infrastructure e.g. highways and ground drainage
 - Parking – charges in town centre car parks and lack of residential parking
 - Public transport in rural areas – cost to the Council and the public
 - Affordable transport for post-16 students and the elderly
 - Improving traffic-calming and the enforcement of speed limits
 - More consistency across the county in the setting of speed limits
 - Improving and maintaining roads and pavements
 - Improving dog-fouling enforcement, litter clearance and green space maintenance.

The Management Committee agreed that officers would undertake initial investigations into each of the topics raised and report back to the relevant committee for consideration for possible inclusion in the work programme.

7. Much of the work on topics on the work programme is undertaken by task groups. The Management Committee decided that, in respect of filling vacancies on task groups, it would re-appoint those members who remain councillors, subject to their wish to continue, and delegate the chairman and vice-chairman of the Environment Select Committee to fill vacancies as necessary. In support of this, the scrutiny team has been asked to canvass all non-executive councillors over their desire to be involved in the overview and scrutiny function and to establish their specific interests.
8. Memberships of the previous task groups are listed below:

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Task Group

Cllr Tony Trotman

Cllr John Hubbard

Cllr Chris Humphries - no longer a member of the Council

Cllr George Jeans

Cllr Ian McLennan

Waste Task Group

Cllr Alan Hill

Cllr Rosemary Brown

Cllr Nigel Carter - no longer a member of the Council

Cllr Brian Dalton

Cllr Jose Green

Air Quality Task Group (joint with Health Select Committee)

Cllr Alan Hill

Cllr Rosemary Brown

Cllr Nigel Carter – no longer a member of the Council

Cllr Chris Cochrane – no longer a member of the Council

Cllr David Jenkins

Cllr Bill Roberts – no longer a member of the Council

Next steps

9. The Committee will have appointed its chairman and vice-chairman at today's meeting, which will provide leadership of the Committee and allow for informal discussion meetings to be arranged with Cabinet members, portfolio-holders and service directors in order to gain common understanding and support over priorities in the work programme, as directed by the Management Committee.
10. It is understood that a review of the Council's current Business Plan, which sets out its priorities and how those will be delivered, will be conducted in the near future. This will provide an opportunity for the Management Committee to review where it focuses its attention, which may have implications for the work of the Environment Select Committee.

Recommendations

11. To note the decision of the Management Committee to endorse the legacy topics and specifically those that are the responsibility of the Environment Select Committee as identified in paragraph 4;
 12. To appoint the memberships of the proposed task groups in line with the approach indicated in paragraph 7;
 13. Following initial investigations by officers, to consider the topics listed in paragraph 6 for inclusion in the work programme;
 14. To note that arrangements will now be made for early discussions between the Chairman and Vice-Chairman with cabinet members, portfolio holders and service directors to gain a more informed understanding about Executive priorities, findings to be reported back to the Committee;
 15. To note the intention of the Council to review its Business Plan and the potential implications for Overview and Scrutiny's work programme
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Report author: Maggie McDonald, Senior Scrutiny Officer

Contact details: 01225 713679 Maggie.mcdonald@wiltshire.gov.uk