

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD – 14th JANUARY 2010

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

REPORT OF SCRUTINY MANAGER

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To enable Members to review the Scrutiny work programme of In-depth Reviews, Spot Light Reviews and Special Interest Meetings.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Members agree the Scrutiny Review and Special Interest Meeting work programme schedule.**
- 2.2 **Members agree to review the Scrutiny Work Programme of In-depth Reviews, Spot Light Reviews, Special Interest Meetings at the May 2010 SLB Meeting.**

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 3.1 20 January 2009 SLB - 13

4. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2009/2010

- 4.1.1 Under the scrutiny arrangements introduced in 2009 Scrutiny Leadership Board agreed the work programme of In-depth Reviews, Spot Light Reviews and Special Interest Meetings. It was agreed that this would form the basis of a 2 year work programme and that a minimum of 3 Members would be required to sign up for each item in the work programme. During the year there have been some amendment and additions to the work programme which attached as Appendix 1. The Scrutiny procedure allows additional scrutiny topics to be suggested for consideration by Scrutiny Leadership Board.

5.0 REVIEWING THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

- 5.1 It is appropriate that Scrutiny Leadership Board should review the progress of the work programme. A number of factors including

staffing cover in the Scrutiny Team and the number and broad scope of the reviews has resulted in the work programme slipping.

- 5.2 A proposed work programme schedule is attached as Appendix 2 which provides a realistic plan for the delivery of the current in-depth reviews, spot light reviews and special interest meetings. It is vital that Scrutiny focuses its efforts on the issues where it can add the greatest value to make the most effective use of Member time and the resources available to support Scrutiny. It should be noted that this work programme is in addition to the work of Scrutiny Assembly and the 5 Sub Groups.
- 5.3 **In Depth and Spot Light Reviews:** In order to effectively manage this work load it is proposed that the In Depth and Spot Light Reviews that have not yet been scoped are deferred until the next municipal year. Members may review the Work Programme in May to determine if these topics are still appropriate issues for Scrutiny to consider.
- 5.4 **Special Interest Meetings:** It is proposed that Special Interest Meetings with less than 3 Members signed up are removed from the work programme. Members are asked to decide which 2 of the remaining Special Interest Meetings topics will take place between February and July:
- Young People with Mental Health Problems
 - Planning Applications and the Role of Parish and Town Councils
 - Advertising and Road Signage
 - Council Complaints Procedure
 - Supporting local Business
 - Development Projects
 - Child Protection and Child Protection Plans
- 5.5 It is suggested that the topic of how effectively Police and Community Together (PACT) meetings are in achieving their objectives could be brought to the March SLB meeting under the Crime and Disorder Reduction Scrutiny. It is also suggested that the issue of 'Sustainable and Balanced Development' is too large a topic for Special Interest Meeting and therefore removed from the work programme.
- 5.6 **Scrutiny Suggestions:** Members are also asked to consider the 2 topics that have been submitted as Scrutiny Suggestions. Given the existing work load if Members wish to undertake this work between January and July they are asked to substitute these topics for existing work or alternatively to defer these items for consideration at the May SLB meeting when the work programme will be reviewed again.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

- 6.1 All Scrutiny Reviews and Special Interest Meetings will consider the equality and diversity implications of the issue under consideration. Scrutiny Members are also undertaking work to scrutinise the effectiveness of Equality Impact Assessments across the Council.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.1 This report does not have any direct environmental impact but the reviews will consider the environmental implications of the issues under consideration.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Council has a duty to scrutinise its work and that of NHS and partner organisations.

9.0 LINKS WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 9.1 The work of the Scrutiny Reviews and Special Interest Meetings cuts across the corporate priorities. The Scrutiny function supports the Corporate and Community Focused Council priority.

9.0 OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

- 10.1 This is an opportunity for Members to reassess the Scrutiny work programme and agree a realistic work programme for the remainder of the year. There is a risk that additional work generated by Scrutiny Subgroups could result in reviews carrying over further into the next municipal year.

10.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The work outlined will be undertaken with in the Scrutiny Resources available.

11.0 WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are not ward implications directly from this report.

12.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

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