

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CO-OPERATIVE & COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE– 25 JULY 11

2011/12 WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT OF SCRUTINY GROUP SPECIALIST

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To enable Members to plan the work programme for the Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members agree and prioritise the issues the Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee will scrutinise during 2011/12.**

3.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 3.1 N/A

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Scrutiny arrangements established in May 2011 and the process for selecting topics for the Scrutiny Work Programme enable each Scrutiny Committee to determine its own work programme within the resources available.
- 4.2 Scrutiny Assembly Members, Cabinet Members, Senior Officers, Town & Parish Councils and partner organisations were invited to put forward their suggestions for the 2011/12 Scrutiny Work Programme. A total of 57 suggestions were received. The Scrutiny Management Board met on 12th July to review the suggestions and to agree which Scrutiny Committee, or Scrutiny Committees for cross-cutting issues, would be responsible for each suggestion.
- 4.3 The allocation of statutory scrutiny functions to the Scrutiny Committees was agreed as set out in the table below.

Duty	Scrutiny Committee
Scrutiny of NHS bodies and emerging health and social care structures	Health Adult Social Care
Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (Safer, Stronger Communities Partnership)	Scrutiny Management Board
Flood & Water Management	Scrutiny Management Board
Partners under LAA (under review)	Co-operative & Communities
Social Care referrals from the LINK	Adult Social Care
Scrutiny of Budget Proposals under the terms of the Council's Constitution	Budget & Finance

- 4.4 Powers relating to scrutiny of partners currently relate to partners under Local Area Agreements which no longer exist. The legislation is being reviewed as part of the Localism Bill and the Centre for Public Scrutiny has been lobbying for the power to be extended to a general description for a local partner as a class of person, rather than setting out a specific list of named partners. A further report will be brought to Scrutiny once the position is clearer.
- 4.5 The Scrutiny Committees will determine the topics for their own work programme. In agreeing the work programme, each Committee will consider the suggestions referred by the Scrutiny Management Board, relevant issues outstanding from previous scrutiny arrangements and any other suggestions the Committee members wish to put forward.
- 4.6 Other Scrutiny suggestions received during the year will be considered at the following meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board, or referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee to consider at its next meeting.

5.0 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 5.1 Scrutiny Committees will hold meetings as appropriate to deliver the work programme and within the resources available. The Scrutiny Management Board will co-ordinate the allocation of resources where there are competing pressures.
- 5.2 Scrutiny Committee meetings will be held as public meetings whenever possible.

6.0 ISSUES FOR SCRUTINY

- 6.1 The issues that have been identified as potential areas for scrutiny by the Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee are set out in Appendix 1. The comments of the Scrutiny Management Board are noted in bold.

7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- 7.1 Members will consider the equal opportunities implications of the issues identified for further scrutiny.

8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 8.1 There are no environmental impacts directly arising as a result of this report.

9.0 LEGAL COMMENT

- 9.1 The operation of the Scrutiny function of the Council is set out in Part 2, Articles 6 & 8 and Part 4, Section 5 of the Council's Constitution: Scrutiny Procedure Rules. These Rules provide at 3.1 and 3.3 that the Scrutiny Management Board will co-ordinate, oversee and monitor the delivery of the Scrutiny work programme and will allocate suggestions to the Committees and make recommendations about priorities. The statutory functions for Scrutiny are set out in paragraph 4.3 of Section 5. This report and its recommendations accord with the provisions of Part 4, Section 5 of the Constitution.

10.0 LINKS WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 10.1 The Scrutiny Work Programme will link in with emerging priorities.

11.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Support for the co-ordination and preparation of the Scrutiny Work Programme is in the form of officer time which is funded from existing budgets.

12.0 OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

- 12.1 The work of the Scrutiny Committees is a major opportunity for Members and Co-optees to influence the work and policy of the

Council and partner organisations. In order to manage the Scrutiny work load effectively Members should identify the issues where Scrutiny can add the most value. Identifying too many issues for the Committee work programme will mean some issues will not be completed with the agreed timescales.

13.0 WARD IMPLICATIONS

13.1 Borough Wide

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