

Suggestions for the Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

	Key issue or service area	Area for Scrutiny
1	<p>Economy & Skills <u>Policy development</u> The need to make Council services 'business friendly' to encourage existing businesses to remain in the Borough and to attract new investment.</p> <p>Depending on the issues that businesses have, they may be dealing with a number of officers on different issues – there is no 'client management' system to enable those officers to be aware of those other contacts or issues</p>	<p>One Business – single point of access for businesses to Council services. This would be the business equivalent of First Point for residents,</p> <p>Budget & Finance Scrutiny Committee to pick up financial aspects.</p>
2	Economy & Skills	<p>That with regard to the Co-operative Council approach, the Economy & Skills Service Area's role in managing strategic relationships with the voluntary sector, and supporting enterprise development (this would include supporting the development of social enterprises, co-ops and mutual businesses to help deliver the Co-operative Council approach) could usefully be a part of that review.</p> <p>To note for relevant parts of the work programme.</p>
3	Environmental maintenance	Environmental maintenance in new town estate wards, Woodside, Brookside & Sutton Hill, is the standard of maintenance on a par with more affluent areas of the Borough?
4	Effectiveness of working with Parish & Town Councils	Effectiveness of working with Parish & Town Councils. An honest assessment.
5	Libraries	To support the service review of Libraries
6	Leisure & Culture	To review the concessions policies in Leisure & Culture
7	Leisure – the role/functions/management of community centres across the Borough	<p>From my own experience and also talking to a number of residents/officers/members across the borough there is a real concern that our community buildings/centres are not functioning properly and many have a poorly developed sense of the changing needs of the local community. I feel that there is more concentration on the physical management of the building rather than with the development of the local community.</p> <p>I believe that scrutiny could look at how the council could strengthen the role of the local community in having a stake in their community centre, enhance partnership working (as part of the co-operative model); identify the issues/problems; look at best practice and to look at a long term commitment/strategy for community buildings across the borough.</p>

8	The effective management of Community Centres within Telford and Wrekin.	<p>We propose that a Development Trust be established (by CVS or some other similar structure) to manage a number of Community Centres on a pilot basis to assess the long term viability of this approach in helping local people have a greater stake and input into the centres serving their community.</p> <p>Effectively bringing these centres within the Voluntary and Community Sector may help to address the stigma some locals undoubtedly have toward what are seen as Council resources. We would also encourage local involvement in the governance of the pilot centres housing local sector groups within them where possible.</p> <p>This is consistent with the approach CVS has taken to its resources in the Lightmoor area of Telford and the forthcoming centre it is purchasing in Wellington. It is proposed that these resources are also managed through a distinct Trust linked to CVS. This would be of a charitable nature enabling the Trust to bid for resources to various regional and national funding streams for maintenance and refurbishment of the centres in ways not perhaps directly possible under current arrangements.</p> <p>There is relative under utilisation of some Community Centres and resources devoted to this by T&W Council have also reduced creating a situation where some are no longer considered viable from a financial perspective.</p> <p>Similarly, neighbourhood working is now co-ordinated from a central area of Telford risking the demise of some of the very close links Council staff have developed with local groups and individuals.</p> <p>Communities would in our view benefit from well resourced and well managed local resources in which they have a stake and which have a future.</p>
9	Social deprivation	<p>Amelioration of social deprivation in high density wards. How can the council best serve those in greatest need?</p> <p>Link to CYP scrutiny suggestion to look at child poverty</p>
10	Media general	<p>How bias of local and national media has a deleterious effect on the public perception of the democratic process and elected representatives in our Borough.</p> <p>The media is not within scrutiny's sphere of influence. A review could only focus on the Council's media strategy.</p>