

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

BUDGET & FINANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE– 27.07.11

2011/12 WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT OF SCRUTINY GROUP SPECIALIST

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To enable Members to plan the work programme for the Budget & Finance Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members agree the issues the Budget & Finance 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 agreed allocation of statutory scrutiny functions to the Scrutiny Committees is 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 The Scrutiny Committees will determine the topics for their own 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.
- 4.5 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 suggestions that were allocated by the Scrutiny Management Board to the Budget & Finance Scrutiny Committee are set out in Annex 1 below.

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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SUGGESTIONS FOR THE 2011/12 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Issues referred to the Budget & Finance Scrutiny Committee by the Scrutiny Management Board on 12th July 2011.

	Key issue or service area	Area for Scrutiny	Comments from the Scrutiny Management Board
1.	The challenging financial outlook for the Council and the need to make savings with as little impact on services to the community as possible	It would be helpful if in all individual scrutiny reviews and other scrutiny work members and co-optees could seek to identify any potential efficiency measures that could be implemented to reduce costs	Refer to Budget & Finance Scrutiny Committee This should be underpinning criteria for all scrutiny reviews.
2.	<u>Economy & Skills 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. 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	One Business – single point of access for businesses to Council services. This would be the business equivalent of First Point for residents	Refer to Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee Budget & Finance to pick up budget issues
3.	Economy & Skills	Could I also suggest that if the Co-operative Council approach is a subject of scrutiny, my 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?	Refer to Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee Budget & Finance Scrutiny Committee for savings aspects To note as part of the work programme
6.	Highway infrastructure	To consider 3 key components relating to strategic and operational issues within Highways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital Programme 2012/2013, 2013/2014 	Refer to Budget & Finance Scrutiny Committee Suggested timing October / Early November 2011.