

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD – 9th JANUARY 2012

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD WORK PROGRAMME

REPORT OF SCRUTINY GROUP SPECIALIST

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To enable the Scrutiny Management Board to prioritise the items on the Forward Plan to ensure the work programme is deliverable within the remaining time during the municipal year and with the available resources.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Members agree the revisions to the work programme as set out in section 5.1 of this report.**

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Management Board met in July 2011 to consider the suggestions that had been put forward for scrutiny and to select the items which would be scrutinised by the Scrutiny Management Board as part of its work programme. The following items were included in the work programme:

- Highways issues: winter maintenance, potholes and the quality of pothole repairs, the condition of footpaths for wheelchair users
- Highways term maintenance contract arrangements and options
- Waste & recycling, refuse collection
- Civil parking enforcement and speed limits outside schools
- Regeneration of borough towns: applying lessons from past projects
- Attracting business and tourism investment into the borough, including tourism around the Wrekin
- Flood and water management (statutory power)
- Safer, Stronger Communities Partnership (statutory duty)
- The Green Deal
- Home Start
- Taxi Licensing
- Dog fouling

- 3.2 The Scrutiny Management Board is the designated statutory body for scrutiny of the Safer Communities Partnership and has designated statutory scrutiny powers for flood and water management. The following items were added to the work programme to fulfil these statutory duties:
- Flood and water management (statutory power)
 - Safer, Stronger Communities Partnership (statutory duty)
- 3.3 Additionally, the following items were added to the work programme at subsequent meetings:
- Co-operative Council & Co-operative Commission
 - Choose Your Home and the Housing Strategy
 - Report on the result of the hot box pothole repair trial compared to the Pothole Buster
 - Maximising infrastructure work on new developments within the developer's costs
 - The allocation of housing based on national priorities
- 3.4 No items have been removed from the work programme.

4.0 THE CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Management Board has reviewed a number of items over previous meetings:
- Co-operative Council and Co-operative Commission
 - Highways issues;
 - Winter maintenance
 - Potholes and the quality of repairs
 - The condition of footpaths for wheelchair users
 - The Green Deal
 - Choose Your Home and the Housing Strategy (January meeting)
- 4.2 However, a significant number of items remain on the work programme to be completed by the end of the municipal year, with only two further meetings scheduled. The Scrutiny Chairman therefore identified the need to review the work programme to ensure that it is deliverable within the remaining time and within existing resources.
- 4.3 An informal meeting of the Scrutiny Chairmen was held on 12th December to consider the remaining items and to agree the most efficient method of scrutiny so that activity is focused on priorities, but extends its reach as far as possible. It was agreed that as items had been added to the work programme during the year, it would be necessary to remove items to make the work programme manageable.

5.0 PROPOSED WAY FORWARD

5.1 The Scrutiny Chairmen considered the remaining items and proposed how they should be dealt with. The results of this discussion are set out in the table below.

Item in the Forward Plan	Proposed action
Highways term maintenance contract arrangements and options	The contract is due for renewal in 2014 and this item would be carried over as a suggestion for the 21012/13 work programme
Waste & recycling, refuse collection	Proposals for recycling centres would be scrutinised as part of the budget proposals. Any remaining items to be carried forward as a suggestion for the 2012/13 work programme.
Civil parking enforcement	A report on the review of Civil Parking Enforcement would be requested and circulated to members to decide whether any further scrutiny is required.
Regeneration of borough towns: applying lessons from past projects	This was not an immediate priority and would be carried over as a suggestion for the work programme for 2012/13.
Attracting business and tourism investment into the borough, including tourism around the Wrekin	A report on inward investment activity and the position of the Wrekin in the tourism strategy would be requested and circulated to members to decide whether any further scrutiny is required.
Flood and water management (statutory power)	Scrutiny has statutory powers in this area, and this is a key issue for the borough. To be considered as an agenda item at the March meeting.
Safer, Stronger Communities Partnership (statutory duty)	Scrutiny has a statutory duty to scrutinise the Safer Stronger Communities Partnership and this would be considered as an agenda item at the May meeting.
Home Start	Home Start is funded as a charity. Information has been requested to clarify whether the Council makes a contribution to Home Start. If council funding is involved, this will be picked up by the Budget & Finance Scrutiny Committee as part of the budget scrutiny.

Taxi Licensing	A report on current issues relating to taxi licensing will be requested and circulated to members to decide whether any further scrutiny is required.
Dog fouling	It was agreed this was not a priority and proposed this is removed from the work programme.
Report on the result of the hot box pothole repair trial compared to the Pothole Buster	A report would be requested and circulated to members when the trial is complete.
Maximising infrastructure work on new developments within the developer's costs	Incorporate this item into the suggestion for the Co-operative & Communities Scrutiny Committee to review Section 106 Agreements and the CIL.
The allocation of housing based on national priorities	This would be included in the item about Choose Your Home and the Housing Strategy at the January meeting.

- 5.2 Written reports which are not agenda items would be included on agendas as "Reports circulated for information". These items will not be reviewed further unless Members decide that they still have concerns and request that the item is brought back to a future meeting. It was felt this was an efficient method of working as resources would be targeted on areas of greatest concern.
- 5.3 A revised Forward Plan is attached as Appendix 1 reflecting the suggested revisions in 5.1 above and which would be adopted if the proposals are agreed.
- 5.4 The Scrutiny Work Programme on the website will be amended to reflect decisions made.

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