

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD –14th NOVEMBER 2014

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME MID YEAR REPORT

REPORT OF SCRUTINY GROUP SPECIALIST

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Scrutiny Management Board on the delivery of the Scrutiny Work Programme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Scrutiny Management Board consider the Scrutiny Work Programme as set out in Appendix 1 and agrees any recommendations to the Scrutiny Committees regarding their work programmes.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 It is the role of Scrutiny Management Board to:

- Co-ordinate, oversee and monitor the delivery of the Scrutiny work programme and will receive regular progress reports from the Scrutiny team and Scrutiny Chairmen.
- Oversee the allocation of scrutiny officer resources to the Scrutiny Committees, and will make decisions where there are competing demands for resources.

Members have been informed that the support to Scrutiny Committees will be reduced while the post of Scrutiny Officer is recruited to cover the Secondment that has been agreed.

4.0 MID YEAR UPDATE ON SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

4.1 At the Scrutiny Management Board Meeting on the 19th September 2014 the Board reviewed the work programme agreed the following issues are the priorities for the work programme for the next few months:

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Supporting the work of the Joint HOSC Chairs

Joint HOSC meetings to consider Future Fit 1 proposals and progress of Future Fit 2

Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny of Adult Care Budgets and Savings (Joint with Budget and Finance)

The Review of the Alcohol Strategy

Co-operative and Community Scrutiny Committee

Review of Benefit Sanctions

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

Review of Youth Unemployment

Committee Meeting on 4th November - School Improvement , Children in Care Dashboard , Parents taking children out of school

Scrutiny Management Board

Meeting 14th November - Telford Housing Options, Housing Allocations Policy

Budget and Finance Scrutiny Committee

Planning the process for scrutiny of the 2015/16 budget proposals

Supporting the Lead Scrutiny Members as Chair of the West Midlands Scrutiny Network

- 4.2 Appendix 1 sets out the progress in delivering the Scrutiny Work Programme. The majority of the work programme has been delivered however the areas of work that have not been completed as planned are:

Co-operative and Communities Scrutiny Committee

Review of Welfare Reform – The Committee met in October to agree the conclusions and recommendations. Report to be drafted by Scrutiny Group Specialist.

Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee

Alcohol Strategy – Committee to meet to receive financial information relating to the alcohol strategy and then to agree conclusions and recommendations.

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The time table for the Future Fit programme has changed so some of the planned work has not taken place. However the Joint HOSC Chairs have carried out an extensive piece of work meeting with NHS Chief Executives and senior officers to inform the work of the Joint HOSC.

- 4.3 The Scrutiny Officer will be in post at the beginning of December and this will enable support to be provided to the areas of work that have not been delivered.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no environmental implications resulting from this report

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Scrutiny work programme will be managed within existing resources and adjustments made accordingly to ensure that this is the case. Any variances will be reported through financial monitoring as appropriate. Any financial implications arising from recommendations should be highlighted and considered as part of the relevant reports. Scrutiny is an important part of the budget consultation process which is reflected in the work programme over the period Dec – Feb and is a key piece of work which feeds into the Council's overall budget strategy.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Despite the temporary reduction in staff the report sets out the provisions put in place to maintain the statutory requirement to have a Scrutiny Committee to oversee and scrutinise the local authority's decisions. The Council will continue to have an appointed Scrutiny Officer to promote the scrutiny role and to continue to provide support and guidance to both members of the authority and Scrutiny itself in relation to the Council's scrutiny function (these responsibilities are statutory in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 as amended).
- 7.2 If legal advice and assistance is required when the scrutiny committees undertake and/or continue the individual reviews set out at Appendix 1, specific legal advice can be provided at that time.

8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no environmental implications resulting from this report

9.0 WARD IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct ward implications resulting from this report

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