

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD – 16th MAY 2014

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY TEAM

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to update the Scrutiny Management Board on the existing and new suggestions for the Scrutiny Work Programme 2014/15 to enable the Board to make recommendations to the Scrutiny Committees.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Scrutiny Management Board consider the allocation of suggestions to the Scrutiny Committees as set out in Appendix 1 and agree recommendations to make to the scrutiny committees.

2.2 That a further report be brought to the Scrutiny Management Board to agree the principles for scrutiny of the administration and alternative budget proposals for 2015/16

2.3 That the Scrutiny Management Board agree the approach to scrutiny of the transport review.

3. BACKGROUND

At the meeting on 14th March 2014 the Scrutiny Management Board agreed that the current work programme would be refreshed and extended until May 2015 instead of carrying out a full work programme setting process as set out in the Scrutiny Handbook. This was a pragmatic approach to allow for continuity of work and for the current workload to be completed in the relatively short period before the election in May 2015.

The following process to refresh the work programme was agreed:

- The Scrutiny Management Board would consider the existing topics and new suggestions at the May meeting and make recommendations about the priorities to the scrutiny committees
- New suggestions put forward by the Senior Management Team of areas where scrutiny could add value would be considered as part of the refresh
- Members of the Local Strategic Partnership would be invited to comment on the issues under consideration and their comments or suggestions would be considered by the Board
- Each scrutiny committee would agree topics for their work programme at the start of the new municipal year.

4. THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

The Scrutiny Management Board is responsible for the strategic co-ordination and oversight of the scrutiny work programme.

The role of the Scrutiny Management Board in setting the work programme is:

- a) To determine whether new suggestions meet the criteria for scrutiny and if not to remove them from the work programme
- b) To agree topics for the Scrutiny Management Board work programme
- c) To allocate other suggestions to the relevant scrutiny committee to consider for the work programme, making recommendations about which should be prioritised or jointly scrutinised
- d) To propose the allocation of resources across the Committees based on the projected work load.

The role of the scrutiny committees in setting the work programme is:

- a) To agree the items to be included in the work programme with regard to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Management Board
- b) To agree the most effective method of scrutiny
- c) To agree the required schedule of meetings.

The topics previously agreed and outstanding from the current work programme and new suggestions for 2014/15 are set out in Appendix 1.

The Scrutiny Management Board is asked to consider the items set out in Appendix 1, and the points below, and to respond to the recommendations in Section 2 of this report as consistent with the role of the Board in setting the work programme.

- New suggestions have been allocated to a lead scrutiny committee. Where a suggestion cuts across more than one committee, other relevant scrutiny committees are noted in the comments column and these topics may be scrutinised jointly by more than one committee.
- In March Senior Managers were asked to identify areas where a scrutiny review could add value to the work of the Council or individual service areas during 2014/15. A number of suggestions were put forward and are shown in Appendix 1.
- Other suggestions put forward by a scrutiny co-optee and a local resident are included in Appendix 1.
- Members of the Local Strategic Partnership were invited to comment on topics suggested for scrutiny or to identify any gaps in the work programme. No comments have been received to date.
- In February the Housing, Economy & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee adopted the Transport Review into its work programme. The Assistant Director Family & Cohesion Services will attend the meeting on 16th May

to explain the approach to the transport review and the Board is asked to agree the scrutiny approach across committees.

- The Scrutiny Management Board may recommend items which should be prioritised for scrutiny or the removal of items previously agreed.
- The lead scrutiny member has recommended that each scrutiny committee select at least one previous scrutiny review to monitor the implementation of recommendations during 2014/15 and this should be a recommendation of the Board to the scrutiny committees. A list of active previous scrutiny reviews is attached as Appendix 2.
- The lead scrutiny member and scrutiny team requested feedback from group leaders, Cabinet members and senior officers to evaluate the process for scrutinising the alternative budget proposals in 2013. It is recommended that a report is brought to a future meeting for the Board to agree the principles for managing next year's budget scrutiny process for Cabinet and any alternative proposals.
- It is helpful for the Board to agree recommendations as far as possible in order for there to be no interruption to the work of the scrutiny committees. However, the Board may defer a decision on particular items should more detailed consideration be deemed necessary.
- Potential areas of duplication with the Audit Committee are indicated on the table and the approach will need to be agreed between scrutiny and audit to avoid duplication of work.

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Topics and suggestions for the 2014/15 Scrutiny Work Programme

	Item	Status	Comments
SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD			
1	Holding the Executive to Account (standing item)	Standing item	
2	<p>Homelessness Strategy – review new Housing Allocation Policy, associated choice based lettings scheme and revised arrangements for dealing with Homelessness and welfare benefit reform plus 1 year.</p> <p>Scrutiny role:</p> <p>a) Critical friend in relation to the development of the Policy and Scheme.</p> <p>b) Reviewing effectiveness of changes made, ongoing impact of changes to the benefit system on families in Telford with regards to housing.</p>	New (SMT)	<p>Cross-over with other scrutiny committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-operative & Communities • Housing, Economy & Infrastructure • Budget & Finance <p>Cross-reference Housing Allocations Policy with Audit Plan to avoid duplication.</p>
BUDGET & FINANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE			
3	Securing Permanency Group quarterly reports circulated for information.	Agreed	The reports require additional resources to produce. SMT has requested that the work of the SPG is incorporated into monitoring work at meetings or that members of the committee attend the monthly financial monitoring meetings to look at this.
4	Financial monitoring reports	Standing item	
5	Scrutiny of Cabinet budget proposals	Standing item	The main opposition group has expressed the intention of producing an alternative budget for 2015/16. It is recommended that the Scrutiny Management Board agree principles and a process for scrutiny of both sets of proposals at a future meeting.
6	Scrutiny of Alternative budget proposals	Agreed	
7	Monitoring the Adult Care budget	Agreed	Agreed during the budget scrutiny process. SMT suggested combining suggestions 7 and 8. SMT suggested the issues should not be included in the scrutiny work programme but scrutiny members should attend financial monitoring meetings to avoid duplication.
8	Development of a monitoring framework for the Adult Services budget	Agreed	
9	Income generation	Agreed	Cross-reference with Audit Committee to avoid duplication
10	Fraud and debt recovery	Agreed	Cross-reference with Audit Committee to avoid duplication

	Item	Status	Comments
11	Working with partner organisations	Agreed	
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE			
12	Education results for the borough	Standing item	
13	Children in Care Performance Monitoring Dashboard	Standing item	
14	West Mercia Adoption Service Plan	Partially Agreed	The Chair has agreed that the Business Plan would be circulated to the committee for information but not as an agenda item at a meeting.
15	Impact of Early Help / Family Connect	Agreed	Outstanding in-depth review from 2012/14 work programme Cross-reference with Audit Plan to avoid duplication.
16	Early Help Offer – including strategy for closing gaps. Review effectiveness of new arrangements for early help including proposals for revised delivery models. Focus on integration of Public Health services. Principles of the Youth Offer will be implemented through restructure proposals and early help offer.	New (SMT)	Recommend this is merged and considered with 15 above.
17	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Review - review approach being taken and proposals for implementing SEND reform.	New (SMT)	
18	Transition review: Stage not age - review effectiveness of new arrangements to support disabled young people and care leavers entering adulthood (for the disabled YPs there are some connections with SEND reform, so needs a link); and Corporate Parenting - ensure voices of young people in care are heard, and that they are influential in shaping services to meet their needs.		Scope to be determined by Committee in consultation with Assistant Directors
CO-OPERATIVE & COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE			
19	Welfare benefit reforms – update on the full year impact. Also including: a) Impact of the withdrawal of Crisis Assistance funding b) Provision for adults with learning disabilities who have had their benefit sanctioned	Agreed	Joint with Budget & Finance Further work to be agreed at the meeting on 12 th May.

	Item	Status	Comments
	c) Debt provision especially prevention and the role of the credit unions.		
20	Community access to BSF facilities As part of the BSF programme all new secondary schools are required to provide various degrees of Community access and usage to the sites. Scrutiny could get involved in scrutinising current arrangements, monitoring new facilities as they come on line. As part of this opportunity engagement with officers (community, Leisure and Education), stakeholder and user groups would be expected.	New (SMT)	
21	Capacity building in local communities. How the Council can help local communities to help themselves.	New (SMT)	
HOUSING, ECONOMY & INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE			
22	Marches Local Transport Body	Agreed	Cross-reference with Audit Plan to avoid duplication
23	Shaping Places – feedback on engagement on the site allocation proposals with the Town & Parish Councils.	Agreed	
24	Section 106 / Community Infrastructure Levy - to review the development of S106 and CIL policies as part of Shaping Places.	Agreed	
25	Car parking enforcement, including the imposition of 20mph speed limits outside schools.	Agreed	It was agreed this item would be deferred until 2016 or until after the Traffic Warden Pilots.
26	Invest in Telford (include BIDS)	Agreed	
27	Destination Telford: Reviewing our destination approach to develop an umbrella brand which sub brands Invest in Telford, Meet Telford & Shropshire, Visit Ironbridge will feed into. Scrutiny role - critical friend / looking at other successful precedents.	New (SMT)	Recommend this is merged and considered with 26 above. Cross-reference with Audit Plan to avoid duplication.
28	Transport Review	New (Co-optee)	The Assistant Director will attend the Scrutiny Management Board meeting on 16 th May to explain the approach to the transport review. It is recommended that the Board agree an approach for scrutiny.
29	Cleansing of Gypsy and Traveller encampments	New (Resident)	
HEALTH & ADULT CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE			
	Autism Strategy	Agreed	Strategy agreed by Health and Wellbeing Board.

	Item	Status	Comments
	Transfer of Public Health to the Local Authority	Agreed	Transfer has been implemented. Work could focus on implementation. Cross reference with Audit Plan
	Alcohol Strategy	Agreed	
	Response to Scrutiny Report on CHC	Agreed	
	Quality Accounts		
	Better Care Fund	Agreed	Cross reference with Audit Plan to avoid duplication as this includes: support and review of processes/procedures
	Adult Safeguarding	Agreed	Cross reference with Audit Plan
JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE			
	Clinical Services Review – Future Fit	Agreed	
	Healthwatch - relationship with Scrutiny Committees	Agreed	
	Oversight of the implementation of the reconfiguration of acute services	Agreed	
	Mental Health Services including the future of Castle Lodge	Agreed	
	Scrutiny of West Midlands Ambulance Service provision in Telford, Wrekin and Shropshire	Agreed	
	Scrutiny of the Shropshire Community Health Trust	Agreed	

Previous Scrutiny Reports

Recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are kept on the recommendations database. In past years, the scrutiny team carried out a periodic exercise to request updates on the implementation of each recommendation accepted by Cabinet.

By 2011 the recommendations database had become long, unwieldy, time consuming to update and, in many cases, the recommendations were out of date. The Scrutiny Chairs carried out a major review of the database and archived recommendations which were complete or no longer relevant.

Recommendations from the following reviews remain on the active database:

Review	Year
Empty Properties and Private Landlords	2013/14
Planning and Provision of Primary Places	2013/14
Community Meals Service	2013/14
Continuing Health Care	2012/13
Children in Care Placement Strategy	2012/13
Leaving Care Grant	2012/13
Budget for Children's Care Placements	2012/13
Waste Services Management Procurement (no report)	2012/13
Management of Community Centres	2011/12
Leisure Concessions Policy	2011/12
First Point for Business	2011/12
Child Protection and Child Protection Plans	2010/11
Transport for Schools	2010/11
Meeting the needs of an Ageing Population / Extra Care Provision	2010/11
Use of Consultants	2010/11
The Council's Capacity to Deliver Regeneration Projects	2010/11
Improvements to Telford Station and Walkways	2010/11
Prostate Cancer	2010/11
Bereavement Support in Schools	2010/11
Developing Future Skills for Business	2010/11
Waste Management & Bulk Collections	2010/11
Housing & Homelessness	2009/10
Helping Residents Access Benefits	2009/10
Section 106	2008/09
First Point Telford	2008/09
Sale of Council Assets	2007/08
Woodside Regeneration Project	2006/07
Car Parking	2004/05