

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD - 4 NOVEMBER 2015

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME INTERIM UPDATE

REPORT OF SCRUTINY TEAM

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide a half-yearly progress update on delivery of the Scrutiny Work Programme to enable the Board to monitor performance and agree any actions arising from the report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Scrutiny Management Board note the report and agree any actions deemed necessary arising from the report.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Following the Borough elections in May 2015, Members were appointed to the Scrutiny Management Board and Scrutiny Committees (as below) at Annual Council on 21 May 2015 in line with the overall political balance of the Council:
- Scrutiny Management Board (Chair Cllr. Shirley Reynolds)
 - Children & Young People (Chair Cllr. Kevin Guy)
 - Customer, Community & Partnership (Chair Cllr. Nathan England)
 - Finance & Enterprise (Chair Cllr. Shirley Reynolds)
 - Health & Adult Care (Chair Cllr. Andrew Burford)
- 3.2 The scrutiny structure was streamlined to reduce the number of Committees from five to four. The changes were within the framework of the Council's Constitution and did not require amendment to the Constitution.
- 3.3 The Scrutiny Handbook sets out the process for agreeing an annual work programme based on the municipal year. The Scrutiny Management Board is responsible for overseeing delivery of the work programme, allocating resources across committees and making recommendations about the priorities for scrutiny. The Scrutiny Committees decide the items to scrutinise during the year paying regard to the allocated resources and the Board's recommendations.
- 3.4 The Scrutiny Management Board met on 10 July 2015 to consider the priorities for 2015/16 and agreed the following:
- That due to the amount of work carried over from the previous year a full review of the work programme would not be carried out this year
 - That the Scrutiny Committees could agree a 2 year work programme to allow scope to include more issues by planning over a longer period

- That the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee review of Multi-agency Working against Child Sexual Exploitation would be prioritised for resources during 2015/16
- A benchmark of 48 meetings across the whole scrutiny work programme for 2015/16 and the allocation of resources for each Committee
- Recommendations for the Scrutiny Committees on high and low priorities
- That the Board would continue its role in Holding the Executive to account
- To carry out a review of non-statutory scrutiny co-optees using the process set out in the Scrutiny Handbook
- Changes to the Scrutiny Handbook arising from and update review

4.0 DELIVERY OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

4.1 The table below summarises work to date expressed as the number of scrutiny meetings held compared to the annual benchmark.

Summary of meetings 21 May – 4 November 2015

Committee	Formal committee	Working group	Total ytd	Benchmark 2015/16
Scrutiny Management Board	2	0	2	3 (+ 1)
Children & Young People	1	14	15	30
Customer, Community & Partnership	1	2 (one joint)	3	3
Finance & Enterprise	2 (joint)*	0	1	4
Health & Adult Care and Joint HOSC	2 (one joint)	1	3	6
Total	6	17	23	47

*Joint meetings of the Finance and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee have not been included in the total to avoid double counting of meetings.

5.0 ISSUES CONSIDERED AND OUTCOMES

5.1 The table below shows the issues considered by scrutiny and the outcomes.

Issues and outcomes 21 May – 4 November 2015

Issue	Scrutiny Committee	Outcomes
Multi-agency working against CSE	Children & Young People	Evidence gathering for in-depth review including: Meeting with 16 organisations / individuals Online consultation run from 31 st September – 1 st November
Bus Subsidy Policy	Customer, Community & Partnership	Feedback submitted to Cabinet and service area
Local Plan engagement strategy	Customer, Community & Partnership	Suggestions made to service area to include in the consultation plan
Housing Allocations Policy and Tenancy Strategy	Customer, Community & Partnership	Comments submitted as part of the consultation
Council Tax Support scheme proposals	Customer, Community & Partnership / Finance & Enterprise	Scrutiny of options considered and feedback submitted as part of the consultation

Consultation on future of Castle Lodge (in-patient mental health)	Health & Adult Care	Response submitted to CCG Board
Adult Care budget and savings	Health & Adult Care / Finance & Enterprise	On-going role of budget monitoring
Hospital discharge – the commissioning strategy to address delayed transfers of care	Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Update report to be provided by NHS Commissioners, Providers and Adult Services end of October 2015.
Future Fit – draft consultation process	Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Assurance regarding current provision of services at SaTH
Holding the Executive to Account: Cllr. Kuldip Sahota Cllr. Paul Watling	Scrutiny Management Board	Cabinet members held to account

6.0 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

- 6.1 The induction for Scrutiny Members was held on 13th May 2015.
- 6.2 As part of the Scrutiny Review of CSE training was also provided for members on Listening Skills in preparation for meetings with victims / survivors of CSE and the parents / carers of victims / survivors of CSE. The first part of this session was open for all members to attend.

7.0 REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SCRUTINY NETWORKS

- 7.1 The West Midlands Overview and Scrutiny Network is chaired by Cllr. Peter Hughes from Sandwell Council. Members of the Scrutiny Team have attended the meetings with have focussed on:
- 17th July - Update from the Centre for Public Scrutiny and future of the West midlands Network
 - 23rd October - Scrutiny Training and an update on the West Midlands Combined Authority, including scrutiny arrangements.
- 7.2 The West Midlands Regional Health Scrutiny Chairs and Officers Forum was held on the 7th October 2015. The chair of the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee attended this meeting and agreed to attend the Centre for Public Scrutiny as the West Midland representative for the Healthy Accountability Forum on the 2nd November.

8.0 REVIEW OF SCRUTINY CO-OPTEEES

- 8.1 The scrutiny review of co-optees has been completed and will be reported to the Board under a separate agenda item.

9.0 REQUESTS FOR URGENT DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN

- 9.1 The Chair of the Customer, Community and Partnership Scrutiny Committee considered an application for and urgent decision not subject to call in in relation to

the decision whether to seek Non-Constituent membership of the emerging West Midlands Combined Authority. This decision was considered at the Cabinet meeting on the 8th October 2015. The request was approved as the deadline for seeking non-constituent membership of the West Midlands Combined Authority was the 13th October 2015 which meant that the call-in process could not be completed in time.

10.0 SCRUTINY SUGGESTIONS

10.1 6 Scrutiny Suggestions have been received. A summary of suggestions is set out below:

Scrutiny Suggestion	Issue Raised
Form e-111060	Planning Application TWC/2015/0566 Request to scrutinise the planning application process for this application.
Form e-111071	The representation at a planning meeting when an application is disputed and the ward member has a conflict of interest.
Form e-111073	Land adjacent to 4 Tunnel Cottages, Aqueduct Lane, Stirchley, TELFORD
Form e-111080	I would like scrutiny to look at a planning application number TWC/2015/0566 "Land adjacent 4 Tunnel Cottages, Aqueduct Lane, Stirchley, Telford"
Form e-111100	Planning application TWC/2015/0566
Form e-111171	The process whereby the authority seeks planning permission for its own land or projects or those of an associated organisation where there are objections raised.

10.2 When considering the scrutiny suggestions members are advised that it is not within the remit of the Scrutiny Committees to consider the decisions of the Council's regulatory committees. Where a ward member has a conflict of interest there is provision for residents to be represented by another member from that ward (where there are 2 or more elected members for that ward) or a neighbouring ward.

11.0 SCRUTINY TEAM

11.1 The support to deliver the scrutiny work programme is provided through the Scrutiny Team:

- Scrutiny Group Speciality 0.8 fte
- Scrutiny Officer 1.0fte
- Scrutiny Officer 0.4 fte (until end of December 2015)

12.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 Scrutiny Committees consider the equal opportunities implications for the issues within their work programmes.

13.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 Scrutiny has a role in ensuring that local government is effective and accountable. This includes undertaking reviews and challenging and monitoring performance. The cost of additional resources to support the Review of Multi-Agency Working Against Child Sexual Exploitation is being met from within existing resources.
- 13.2 Scrutiny also plays 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. The financial implications of any recommendations made by Scrutiny should be considered as part of reports as relevant.

14.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 The Council is under a legal requirement to provide an overview and scrutiny function in accordance with provisions at section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended) and associated legislation. Government guidance states that Overview and Scrutiny Committees should have flexibility to determine most of their workplan and that the Council adopts mechanisms for coordinating that work.
- 14.2 The procedure followed in paragraph 9.1 of this report is undertaken in accordance with the provisions set out in the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012.
- 14.3 The proposals for discussion by the Board in this report contribute towards complying with both the statutory requirements and government guidance.

15.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 Environmental issues that are scrutinised will fall within the remit of the Customer, Community and Partnership Scrutiny Committee and will be undertaken within the resources available to this Committee.

16.0 WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 16.1 There are no direct ward implications resulting from this report

Report prepared by:

Stephanie Jones, Scrutiny Officer: 01952 383114

Fiona Bottrill, Scrutiny Group Specialist: 01952 383113