

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD - 10th JULY 2015

PLANNING SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2015/16

REPORT OF SCRUTINY GROUP SPECIALST

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to enable Scrutiny Management Board to consider issues for the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2015/16 and the work load across the Committees.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Scrutiny Management Board prioritises the issues for the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2015/16, identifies the resources and number of meetings that will be allocated to each Scrutiny Committee and recommends issues for consideration by the Scrutiny Committees.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 SMB - 23 March 2015

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 The March 2015 Scrutiny Management Board meeting received a report on the three year Scrutiny Work Programme from 2012/13 – 2014/15. This report identified a number of issues that were ongoing issues and Scrutiny Management Board recommended that the following issues were carried forward into the 2015/16 work programme:

- Housing Allocation Policy
- Scrutiny of budget proposals / alternative budget proposals
- Welfare Reform
- Section 106 Annual Report
- Monitoring the implementation to the Scrutiny recommendations in NHS Continuing Healthcare
- Scrutiny of the Local Enterprise Partnership and Local Transport Body
- Review of Customer Services
- NHS Quality Accounts
- Flood Water Management
- Scrutiny of the Safer Telford Partnership (CDRP)

4.2 Members may wish to raise other issues they wish to be included in the work programme for 2015/16 at the Board Meeting. Issues that have been raised of the Customer, Community and Partnership Scrutiny Committee are monitoring of the waste management contract and the tenancy strategy. Section 5 of this report sets out the work load issues for 2015/16. The issues recommended by Scrutiny Management Board for inclusion in the work programme will need to be managed within the resources available.

4.3 At Annual Council Members were appointed to the following Scrutiny Committees:

- Scrutiny Management Board
- Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
- Customer, Community and Partnership Scrutiny Committee
- Finance and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee
- Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee
- Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5.0 PRIORITISING THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

5.1 The average number of Scrutiny Meetings over the last 3 years has been approximately 50 per year (including formal Committee meeting and informal working groups). The work planned for the Scrutiny Review of Multi-Agency Working Against CSE will take approximately 30 meetings during 2015/16. Each of these meeting will be particularly resource intensive due to the planning necessary when working with vulnerable groups. Under existing resources it is therefore realistic to plan that there will be 15 meetings available over the year for Scrutiny Management Board, the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee, the Joint HOSC, Budget and Finance and the Customer, Communities and Partnership Scrutiny Committee . This review will therefore have a significant impact on the rest of the work programme.

5.2 The table below sets out the number of meetings that all the issues identified by Scrutiny Management Board would require, based on the work of the Scrutiny Committees in previous years:

Scrutiny Committee	Issue	Number of Formal / Informal Meetings 2015/16
Scrutiny Management Board	Planning Scrutiny work Programme 2015/16	8
	Updating Scrutiny Handbook	
	Review of Co-optee Protocol and appointment of Non- Statutory Co-optees	
	Mid year Report	

	End of Year Report	
	Holding Executive to Account	
Children & Young People	Multi-Agency Working Against Child Sexual Exploitation	30
Customer, Community & Partnership	Consultation on Local Plan: consultation Version	1
	Transport Review and Bus Subsidy Policy	
	Welfare Reform	Scope not agreed
	Scrutiny of LEP and LTB	Scope not agreed
	Customer Services Review	Scope not agreed
	Section 106 Annual Report	1
	Housing Allocation Policy	
	Flood Water Management	1
	Community Safety Partnership	
Finance & Enterprise	Adult Care Budget and Savings	2 (Led by HAC Scrutiny Committee)
	Scrutiny of Budget Proposals (inc Alternative Budget)	6
Health & Adult Care	Future of Castle Lodge	2
	Adult Care Budget and Savings (Including Integration and Better Care Fund)	
	Continuing Healthcare	2
	NHS Quality Accounts	4
Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Future Fit	4
	Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire Mental Health Strategy	
	Joint HOSC Terms of Reference	
Total number of meetings approx:		59*

*Not including Scrutiny of Welfare Reform, LEP and LTB or Customer Services Review or meetings required if a the Call-in procedure is instigated.

5.2 Appendix 1 illustrates this work planned across the year. Members have requested additional resources to support some of this additional work. It is the role of Scrutiny Management Board to allocate the support provided by the Scrutiny Team and it is therefore necessary to prioritise the Scrutiny work load across the committees. The Scrutiny Handbook does not set out criteria against which issues should be assessed for inclusion in the work programme. However it is good practice to present the greatest risk to the Council and local community and also where Scrutiny can add greatest value.

5.3 Other issues that Scrutiny Management Board may also want to consider are:

- The option to plan the work load over a 2 year work programme
- How to monitor the implementation of previous Scrutiny recommendations

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 As part of scoping the Scrutiny work prioritised by the Scrutiny Management Board the Scrutiny Committees will need to consider the equal opportunities implications for their work programmes. This will include considering the relevant protected characteristics:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Re-assignment
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Race
- Religion and Belief
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Scrutiny has a role in ensuring that local government is effective and accountable. This includes undertaking reviews and challenging and monitoring performance. The Scrutiny Review of Multi-Agency Working Against Child Sexual Exploitation is a significant piece of work and additional resources are to be allocated to provide extra support. This will create an overspend against the Scrutiny budget of around £5k which will be managed within the overall Democratic Services budget.

7.2 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.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 The proposals for discussion by the Board in this report contribute towards complying with both the statutory requirements and government guidance.

9.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 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.

10.0 WARD IMPLICATIONS

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

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