

# Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 3 June 2013

**Title:** Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2013-14

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**Service:** Governance Services

**Directorate:** Law and Governance

**Wards affected:** All

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## 1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to report the outcomes of a chairs and deputy chairs meeting held on 22 May 2013 and provide information to allow the sub-committee to consider and agree its work programme for the 2013/14 municipal year.

## 2. Recommendations

The sub-committee is asked to:

- 1) Consider the information and suggested topics for in-depth investigation contained within the report; and
- 2) Of the suggested topics, prioritise one topic to focus on and identify an appropriate method for carrying out this work.

## 3. Details

### Background

- 3.1 Following a meeting of the scrutiny chairs and deputy chairs on 22 May 2013 it was agreed that Overview and Scrutiny should focus on undertaking in-depth studies into priority policy areas. At this meeting a long list of priority topics was agreed and the overview and scrutiny sub-committees will be reviewing the topics from this list that fall within their remit with a view to agreeing a work programme for 2013-14. Once the sub-committees have undertaken this exercise, the priority areas selected will be reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 From the topics considered the following priorities were identified that fall within the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
  - Engagement – to assist in the development of an engagement strategy to replace the area forums;
  - North Tyneside Strategic Partnership – to assist in a review of the NTSP's objectives and operating structure;

- Council Plan and Sustainable Community Strategy– to assist in the development of the Council Plan and the refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy;
- To review the key performance indicators for the partnerships and how these are being monitored.

3.3 Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to consider the suggested topics above and prioritise one area for in-depth investigation, with a view to contributing to the development or refresh of a policy, plan or strategy. The Chairs and Deputy Chairs were advised at the meeting on 22 May 2013 that, due to capacity, the committees/sub-committees should aim to prioritise one area for in-depth investigation. Members should aim to apply the following criteria when prioritising topics:

- Does the topic relate to the Council's themes/objectives?
- Would a scrutiny investigation make a positive contribution to the formulation of future plans/strategies?
- Is the issue of concern/interest to members of the public?
- Is scrutiny the most appropriate means of addressing the issue?

3.4 It has been recognised that undertaking in-depth studies is often easier to achieve outside the formal committee setting and Members should consider setting up a sub-group or study group to undertake some research before reporting back to the committee.

3.5 In addition to undertaking in-depth studies into priority policy areas, Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider the following items of business throughout the year:

- Corporate performance reports and North Tyneside Strategic Partnership performance reports (quarterly)
- Change, Efficiency and Improvement programme updates (bi-monthly)
- Plans/strategies that fall within the Budget and Policy Framework
- Approval of reports from sub-committees/study groups

#### 4. **Appendices (if any)**

None