

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 7 October 2013

Title: Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2013-14

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Service: Governance Services

Directorate: Law and Governance

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

To provide an update for the committee on the delivery of the 2013/14 work programme and to compare the priorities in the work programme against the Our North Tyneside Plan 2014-18.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to consider the topics currently selected for in-depth review and compare these with the priorities outlined in the Our North Tyneside Plan 2014-18, with a view to identifying any areas of importance not currently being addressed within the scrutiny work programme.

3. Details

- 3.1 At its meeting in July 2013, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report which set out the topics selected by the sub-committees for in-depth investigation. These topics had a clear focus on policy development.
- 3.2 In deciding which topic areas that Overview and Scrutiny Committee should focus on, Members highlighted the importance of understanding the priorities that would form the new Council Plan. The Committee agreed to undertake a study into community engagement but decided to wait until the Council Plan was finalised before establishing any other studies.
- 3.3 At its last meeting on 2 September 2013, the Committee received the final proposals for the Our North Tyneside Plan 2014-18 and also received a presentation from the Elected Mayor in relation to Cabinet's priorities for the coming year. The Our North Tyneside Plan 2014-18 is due to be approved by Council on 26 September 2013.
- 3.4 The policy development reviews currently being undertaken by scrutiny (and timescales for completion/commencement) are set out below:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Local Plan Sub-group – final report approved and submitted to Council on 26 September 2013. The group will continue to meet in order to undertake some work in relation to the planning appeal process.

Community Engagement Sub-group – report to be submitted to Cabinet at its meeting on 7 October 2013.

Adult Social Care, Health and Well-Being

Child Poverty Study – as the issue of child poverty is so wide it was agreed to focus on two areas; 1) best start in life, early intervention and prevention (through access to Children’s Centres), and 2) barriers to employment (in recognition that access to employment would help reduce child poverty).

A sub-group was established with members from Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing and Children, Education and Skills Sub-committees. The study is due to be finalised by December 2013.

Public Health – a piece of work around targeting public health services to reduce inequalities.

Independent Supported Living – to investigate the impact that cuts have had, particularly on overnight provision for Independent Supported Living.

Timescales for commencement have not yet been decided for both the topics above.

Children, Education and Skills

Apprenticeships – to examine the outcome of apprenticeships ran by the Council and to identify any areas for improvement. A sub-group commenced this work in September 2013.

Integrated Disability Service – to contribute to the development of the health and education plan for 0-25 year olds. To be commenced once capacity allows.

Economic Prosperity and Housing

Developing New Affordable Homes – to contribute to the development of the Council’s strategy to increase the number of affordable new homes. A sub-group has been established and this work is due to be finalised by December 2013.

Environment and Culture

Street lighting – to contribute to the development of a new Lighting Strategy for the borough aimed at reducing energy costs. The outcomes of this review are due to be presented to Cabinet in November 2013.

Sense of place – to consider how communities can work together, develop a sense of ownership and promote high standards within estates. No current timescale for commencement.

3.5 The Our North Tyneside Plan 2014-18 and 2013-14 Action Plan are appended to this report. This will allow Members to compare priorities within the Plan to the priority topics

within the 2013-14 scrutiny work programme and identify where there are any areas not covered that Members feel are of importance.

- 3.6 If the committee do identify priorities in the Our North Tyneside Plan 2014-18 that they feel scrutiny should be involved in, consideration needs to be given to the capacity of each sub-committee and whether other planned work would need to be postponed as a result. In considering the capacity of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its sub-committees Members may wish to begin to consider the approach that scrutiny will take to scrutinising the budget.

4. Appendices (if any)

Appendix A – ‘Our North Tyneside’ Council Plan 2014-18

Appendix B – ‘Our North Tyneside’ 2013-14 Action Plan