

Meeting: Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

Date: 7 July 2014

Title: Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2014-15

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Service: Governance Services

Directorate: Law and Governance

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to allow the Committee to consider and agree its work programme for the 2014/15 municipal year.

2. Recommendations

The sub-committee is asked to:

- 1) Consider the suggested topics for inclusion in the work programme for 2014/15 and agree the areas the Committee would like to prioritise;
- 2) Consider the information and suggested topics for in-depth investigation contained within the report; and
- 3) 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 The Scrutiny chairs and deputy chairs met on 11 March 2014 to consider the overview and scrutiny work programme for the 2014/15 municipal year. At this meeting it was agreed that Overview and Scrutiny should continue to focus on policy development work.
- 3.2 The chairs and deputy chairs considered a list of potential in-depth scrutiny topics that had arisen from a range of sources, including scrutiny chairs and members, Cabinet members and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), and a long list of priority topics was agreed. 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 2014/15. Once the sub-committees have undertaken this exercise, the priority areas selected will be reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- 3.3 The suggested topics for in-depth reviews by Committee/Sub-committee are set out in the attached spreadsheet.
- 3.2 From the topics considered the following priorities were identified that fall within the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
- Review of 'Community Conversations' and implementation of the community engagement review recommendations;
 - A strategic review of the work of the Kier Joint Venture with a focus on the future;
 - Local Plan Sub-group – to finalise the review of the procedures in relation to the Scaffold Hill planning appeal that was begun in 2013-14 in response to a Council motion.
- 3.3 Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to consider the suggested topics above and agree to undertake these in-depth investigations, with a view to contributing to the development of policy in these areas.
- 3.4 It has been recognised that undertaking in-depth studies is often easier to achieve outside the formal committee setting and Members could consider setting up a sub-group or study group to undertake some research before reporting back to the committee where this might be appropriate. Due to resource implications, only one scrutiny review should be undertaken at any one time.
- 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:
- Creating a Brighter Future Change Programme – to seek contribution from the Committee on the development of service design projects as part of this programme
 - Our North Tyneside bi-annual performance reports
 - Mayor's Annual Report setting out the Cabinet's priorities for the coming year
 - Change, Efficiency and Improvement programme updates
 - Plans/strategies that fall within the Budget and Policy Framework
 - Approval of reports from sub-committees/study groups

4. Appendices (if any)

Appendix 1 – Spreadsheet containing work programme suggestions.