

Outline Work Programme and Topic Reviews

SUMMARY

- 1.1 This item gives members an opportunity to discuss potential work plans and topic reviews for the forthcoming municipal year, and develop the basis for a work programme. The reviews may cover anything within their remit and could include internal as well as external facing services. The overview and scrutiny officer has also met with senior officers to determine key work areas within the board's remit for the following year, which the Chair will highlight to members for discussion.
- 1.2 The Board has been looking into a review of homeless provision in the city during the latter part of the previous municipal year. This is due for completion within the next 6-8 weeks. The Board should decide on whether to continue with this topic review, and determine which members wish to be on the working party if it is to be completed. In this case it is suggested that the previous Chair of the board, Councillor Redfern, should be invited on to the working party to participate in the conclusion of this review.
- 1.3 Following a meeting with the performance team and planning officers, the Chair would like to conduct a review of the planning process for dealing with objections to planning applications. The Board should decide on whether to move forward with this review.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To suggest items for the annual Work Programme 2013-2014 and identify any topic reviews for the forthcoming year.
- 2.2 To make a decision on the completion of the review of homeless provision in the city.
- 2.3 Subject to section 2.2, to identify and appoint members to a working group tasked to undertake work relating to the homeless provision topic review.
- 2.4 To decide whether the board should conduct a review of the planning process in respect of dealing with objections to planning applications.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure that the Board has a clear work programme for the forthcoming municipal year.
- 3.2 To ensure that the Board is kept informed on progress with regards to the Homelessness topic review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Board should agree a work programme for the year to enable Board Members, the supporting Scrutiny Officer and departmental officers to plan in advance for meetings throughout the year in a strategic way.
- 4.2 The work programme is not restrictive, and Board members can identify and introduce items for scrutiny throughout the year. Items for scrutiny will be discussed at pre-meetings with the Chair and Vice Chair, and will be added to the Scrutiny Board Agenda at the Chair's discretion.
- 4.3 The Council Constitution limits one topic review report to be submitted to the Council Cabinet every six months from Scrutiny Boards. It is possible for each Board to conduct two reviews in each municipal year. Topic reviews are not mandatory, but if the board wishes to conduct in-depth reviews in the current year, it is suggested that members should aim to agree a topic for review at the earliest opportunity.
- 4.4 If a working group is formed for the purpose of conducting topic reviews, they should only exist for the duration of the review and be dissolved upon completion of the review. Individuals outside of the scrutiny board can be invited to join the working group, as the group has no formal scrutiny powers. The purpose of the working group is to investigate, gather evidence and make recommendations to the scrutiny board in an advisory capacity.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Not Applicable
Financial officer	Not Applicable
Human Resources officer	Not Applicable
Estates/Property officer	Not Applicable
Service Director(s)	Not Applicable
Other(s)	Mahroof Hussain, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 None arising directly from this report.

Legal

- 2.1 Section 21 (3) of the Local Government Act 2000 requires that the power of an overview and scrutiny committee to review or scrutinise a decision made but not implemented includes power to recommend that the decision be reconsidered by the person who made it.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 Effective scrutiny benefits all Derby people.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

Property and Asset Management

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management

- 8.1 None arising directly from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 Our aim is to work together so that Derby and its people will enjoy a thriving sustainable economy, good health and well-being and an active cultural life.