

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.
- 1.2 Members expressed a desire to look in more detail at issues relating to homeless provision in the city. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer has developed a scoping report for this topic review, and this can be found at Appendix 3

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To agree the work programme as can be seen at Appendix 2 and suggest items for the annual Work Programme 2013-2014 and identify any topic reviews for the forthcoming year.
- 2.2 To discuss, amend and approve the scoping report for the 'Shaping the city centre' topic review found at Appendix 3.

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 clear in their scope for the homelessness review and the proposed timescales for delivery and completion of the 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

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.

**Corporate Scrutiny and Climate Change Board
Draft Work Programme - October 2013**

Meeting date	Item
January	Regional Growth Fund
	Lightspeed Evolution – superfast broadband update
	Climate Just Project/Fuel Poverty/Energy Advice - Severn Trent Water project
	'Our City Our River' Project (possible engagement strategy)
	Energy Policy and Strategy for the Council
	Derby Workstyle Phase 2 revisit (focus on staff travel/transport/accessibility issues)
	Multi-Use Sports Arena – Customer Experience and work package
March	Business Energy Support Promoting Opportunities and Knowledge for Energy Efficiency (BESPOKE)
	Coaching for success programme, BITC project & talent match (linkages between schools, local businesses, graduates & apprentices).
	Council Plan and 2014/15 Business Plans
	Derby Plan – Projects update
	Work Programme and Topic Reviews

Shaping the future of the city centre

A review of what Derby needs to develop and maintain a thriving and vibrant city centre

1. Background

- 1.1 On 11 September 2013 members of the Corporate Scrutiny and Climate Change (CSCC) Board attended a briefing on regeneration in the city. This included informing members about the regeneration work that has been done, regeneration work currently underway and an overview of work that is already planned for the future and what else the council needs to do that is not currently in the Regeneration work programme. The briefing also included a tour of the city centre to highlight this work and areas that require a regeneration focus.
- 1.2 Following this briefing the CSCC Board received a formal report at their meeting of 16 2013 reviewing the work of the Regeneration Fund. The Board were updated on the use of the Regeneration Fund so far and how it was to be used in the future. In addition the Board received an update on progress towards producing a Core Strategy for Derby, with a particular focus on policies and approach towards development in the city centre (for example the types of use that were wanted and needed in the city). Following a discussion around this the board decided to undertake a topic review on the shaping of the city centre so that outcomes could be influenced.
- 1.3 A key work priority for the Regeneration Projects Division over the next quarter is to work with a wide range of stakeholders to develop short, medium and long term plans for responding to the changing role of the city centre, and the immediate issues of decline in certain parts of the retail core. This review will feed into this work and scrutinise the emerging conclusions.

2. Aims of the review

- 2.1 To understand the market forces and cultural changes impacting on the role of the city centre, with particular emphasis on the future of retail.

- 2.2 To consider whether the draft policies within the emerging Core Strategy are able to help ensure Derby has a viable and vibrant city centre, and provide recommendations to Council Cabinet to feed into the consultation process for the Core Strategy and regulation policy.

3. Objectives of the review

- 3.1 To explore the risks and opportunities in the city centre.
- 3.2 Review the specific uses of the city centre built environment and explore the options for future uses, particularly for current vacant city centre units, key sites and those at risk of becoming vacant.
- 3.3 Understand what people want and what is likely to work through consultation with key partners such as the Vibrant Derby Board, desktop research and case study reviews.

4. Methodology

4.1 Stage 1

It is recommended that the board selects at least five members to take this review forward. It is suggested that these Members are drawn from across the political parties.

The review board will conduct this review initially through gathering data, information and evidence from case studies and desktop research. This stage will complement and feed into the work already underway within the Regeneration Department as described in 1.3..

4.2 Stage 2

Following the initial stage of evidence and data gathering the Corporate Scrutiny and Climate Change Board may wish to call a series of witnesses to a review workshop, where a dialogue with key partners will gather supplementary evidence to help members to develop a full picture of the current situation and to help the Board identify any recommendations to help achieve the review objectives.

4.3 Possible witnesses to attend this review workshop could include:

- The Leader of the Council;
- The council's Chief Executive officer;
- Regeneration, planning, strategic housing and other relevant council officers
- Partnership boards such as Marketing Derby, Derby Renaissance Board and Vibrant Derby;
- Business Improvement Districts;
- Local businesses;
- Developers and landlords.

5. Timing and Timescales for the Review

Action	Date
Board to approve/amend scope of topic review. Set up a review board.	Thursday 21 November 2013
Desktop review, documental evidence and information gathering.	November – December 2013
Review workshop.	December/January 2013
Write up review report, send draft to the CSCC Board for comments.	January-February 2013
Submit report and recommendations to the CSCC Board for approval (via COG).	February 2013
Submit report and recommendations to Council Cabinet.	12 March 2013