

# Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2009/2010

14 July 2009

### Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Committee with an update on the work programme for 2009/10.

This report is public

#### Recommendations

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- (1) That the Committee notes the current overview and scrutiny work programme for 2009/10 (Appendix 1) and agrees to:
  - a) remove Emergency Planning from the monitoring section;
  - b) invites the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing to attend a meeting in the autumn (October or November) to report on further progress on Rural Affordable Housing and Exception Sites;
  - c) retain Concessionary Travel in the monitoring section of the work programme to review progress against recommendations.

#### Details

##### 1 Existing work programme

1.1 Appendix 1 sets out the existing work programme for both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board, as agreed at the committee meetings in June 2009.

1.2 The Committee will wish to note that the Portfolio Holder, Community Safety, Street Scene and Rural will be present at the October meeting to report on progress against the scrutiny recommendations on the district's markets, and in particular the status of Banbury market.

## **2 Monitoring items**

2.1 The following items are scheduled for review:

### **Emergency Planning**

2.2 The Committee considered the Council's emergency planning arrangements in November 2008. Appendix 2 summarises the status of these recommendations and provides further information on other emergency planning activities. In particular the Committee will wish to note that planning and preparation work for pandemic influenza is in progress; and that all members of the Council will be kept informed of developments over the coming months.

2.3 As all of the scrutiny recommendations are complete the Committee may wish to remove this item from the work programme. It is suggested that any on-going or future concerns about pandemic influenza should be treated as a separate scrutiny topic if, and when, appropriate.

### **Rural Affordable Housing**

2.4 The recommendations of the scrutiny review into Rural Affordable Housing and Exception Sites are detailed at Appendix 3. The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing presented the conclusions of the review at the Parish Liaison meeting on 17 June 2009. In general the scrutiny report was well received and parish councils were supportive of the recommendations.

2.5 The Executive requested some additional reports (see recommendations 6 – 8) and these are due to be considered at their August meeting. Copies of the reports will be circulated to this committee when published.

2.6 Given the reasonably long lead time on some of the recommendations it is suggested that the Committee invites the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing to attend a meeting in the autumn (October or November) to report on further progress.

### **Concessionary Travel**

2.7 The Executive will consider the report of the Task & Finish Group and this Committee's recommendations regarding Concessionary Travel at their meeting on 6 July 2009. The Democratic Services, Scrutiny and Elections Manager will brief the Committee on the outcome of the Executive discussion.

2.8 It is suggested that this item remains on the work programme and is scheduled for review in November or January (or on an earlier timescale if the government decision on the future administration of concessionary travel becomes available sooner).

## Residents Parking

- 2.9 The Executive will consider this Committee's recommendation regarding Residents Parking at their meeting on 6 July 2009. The Democratic Services, Scrutiny and Elections Manager will brief the Committee on the outcome of the Executive discussion.

## Implications

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- Financial:** There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The report of the individual scrutiny reviews will address any specific financial issues.  
Comments checked by Denise Westlake, Service Accountant, 01295 221559
- Legal:** There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. The report of the individual scrutiny reviews will address any specific legal issues.
- Risk Management:** If too many items are included on the work programme there is a risk that scrutiny agendas become overloaded. This undermines effective scrutiny because Members are unable to concentrate on the key issues and officer resources are over-stretched. It may be necessary to hold further meetings during the year if the risk of not achieving the work programme becomes apparent. The report of the individual scrutiny reviews will address any specific risk issues.  
Comments checked by Rosemary Watts, Risk Management & Insurance Officer 01295 221566

## Document Information

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Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Latest work programme 2009/10
Appendix 2	Emergency Planning update
Appendix 3	Rural Affordable Housing and Exception Sites scrutiny review recommendations
Appendix 4	Concessionary Travel scrutiny review recommendations
<b>Background Papers</b>	

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