

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## 2011/12 Draft Work Programme

19 July 2011

### Report of Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Committee on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2011/12.

This report is public

#### Recommendations

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The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended:

- (1) Note the current Overview and Scrutiny element of the work programme for 2011/12 as set out at Appendix 1.
- (2) Note any items of interest in the current version of the Forward Plan (August 2011 - November 2011) and consider whether to include them on the work programme for 2011/12.
- (3) Note the draft scoping document on the proposed review of the Registered Social Landlords Relationship Policy and consider whether to include it on the work programme for 2011/12.
- (4) Note the agenda items for the 13 September 2011 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and determine how to approach the scheduled review of the Council's equalities policy.

#### Details

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##### **1 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2011/12**

- 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 2011.

1.2 The Committee will wish to note any items of interest in the current version of the Forward Plan (August 2011 - November 2011) and consider whether to include them on the work programme for 2011/12.

1.3 The latest version of the Forward Plan can be found at <http://modgov.cherwell.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=135&RP=115>

## **2 Potential Work Programme Items 2011/12**

### **Registered Social Landlords Relationship Policy**

2.1 At the work programme planning meeting in June the Committee identified the Registered Social Landlords Relationship Policy as a potential topic for a future scrutiny review. The Democratic, Scrutiny and Elections Manager was tasked to prepare a scoping document and to seek the views of the Corporate Management Team.

2.2 A draft scoping document will be tabled at the meeting and the Committee will wish to consider whether to include it on the work programme for 2011/12.

## **3 Agenda for 13 September 2011**

4.1 This is the draft agenda for the meeting in September:

- Equalities Policy
- Work Programme 2011-12 (regular agenda item presented by the Scrutiny Officer).

4.2 The Committee agreed to conduct a scrutiny review of the council's commitment to equalities at the meeting on 14 June 2011. The proposal is that the Committee look at the Council's Equality Framework for Local Government 'Achieving' Self Assessment. This evidence based self-assessment of the council's equalities performance has been prepared by the Equality Corporate Steering Group. This is an officer only group and it is essential that the assessment is subject to an independent review and challenge by members of the council, to ensure that we have self assessed Cherwell DC at the correct level and to highlight areas of weakness to allow continued improvement within Corporate Equalities.

4.3 The Committee will wish to agree how best to approach this piece of work. It is suggested that there should be 1 or 2 group discussions for

members of the Committee to look in detail at the assessment documentation and evidence. These meetings would be facilitated by the Community Planning, Performance & Partnerships Manager and the Equalities Officer. There would then be a more general discussion at the committee meeting in September to consider the submission.

#### 4 Future Meetings Schedule

4.1 The future meeting dates for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Performance Scrutiny Board are listed below.

<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	13 September 2011 18 October 2011 15 November 2011 06 December 2011
<b>Resources &amp; Performance Scrutiny Board</b>	6 September 2011 11 October 2011 22 November 2011

#### 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 Sarah Best, Senior Accountancy Assistant 01295 221736

**Legal:** There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. The report of the individual scrutiny reviews will address any specific financial issues.

Comments checked by Paul Manning, Solicitor, 01295 221691

**Risk Management:** If the work programme contains too many items 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 James Doble, Democratic, Scrutiny and Elections Manager, 01295 221587

### **Wards Affected**

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Each scrutiny review will identify the wards affected

### **Corporate Plan Themes**

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Each scrutiny review will identify the relevant corporate plan themes

### **Document Information**

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<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix 1	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Work Programme 2011/12
Appendix 2	Scoping document on the proposed review of the Registered Social Landlords Relationship Policy (to follow)
<b>Background Papers</b>	
None	
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