

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2011/12 Work Programme

18 October 2011

Report of Head of Service

PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

This report is public

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Note any items of interest in the current version of the Forward Plan (October 2011 – January 2012) and consider whether to include them on the work programme for 2011/12.
- (2) Note the current Overview and Scrutiny element of the work programme for 2011/12 as set out at Appendix 1.
- (3) Determine the agenda items for the 15 November 2011 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Details

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 September 2011.
- 1.2 The Committee will wish to note any items of interest in the current version of the Forward Plan (October 2011 – January 2012) 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/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=115&RD=0>

2 Potential Work Programme Items 2011/12

Registered Social Landlords Relationship Policy

- 2.1 At the July meeting the Committee agreed that Councillors Bonner, Emptage and Mrs R Stratford would work with officers outside the formal meeting programme to develop a briefing pack on the current procedures and policies and to develop the plans for the structure of the review of the Council's relationships with Registered Social Landlords. It is suggested that the Committee take an initial discussion on this topic at their November meeting.

Empty Homes Policy

- 2.2 At the July meeting the Committee noted that the production of the Empty Homes Policy document has been delayed mainly because of external events (changes to national benefit payments and the economic recession) which required a re-prioritisation of resources within the housing team. The Committee requested that, as part of their policy development brief, they be given the opportunity to review the document prior to its submission to the Executive. It is proposed that the Committee take a discussion on this topic at the November meeting which will then inform the drafting of the policy document.

Shared ICT Services

- 2.3 The Director, Environment and Community is aware of the Committee's request to consider any reports on this topic prior to submission to the Executive. He has advised that it will be some months before this report on the business case will be available; he has indicated a provisional earliest date of November 2011. The item has been added to the work programme for the late autumn and will be kept under review.

3 Agenda for 15 November 2011

- 3.1 This is the draft agenda for the meeting in October:
- Empty Homes Policy ~ detailed discussion with officers from Housing Services to inform the drafting of the policy document.
 - Registered Social Landlords ~ briefing from the lead Committee members on their preliminary investigations.
 - Work Programme 2011-12 (regular agenda item presented by the Scrutiny Officer).

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.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	15 November 2011 06 December 2011
Resources & Performance Scrutiny Board	11 October 2011 22 November 2011

Implications

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

Each scrutiny review will identify the wards affected

Corporate Plan Themes

Each scrutiny review will identify the relevant corporate plan themes

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Work Programme 2011/12
Background Papers	
None	
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