

Updated Work Programme Economy & Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

BEGINNING OF THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010 /2011

It was agreed at the Overview and Scrutiny Chairs meeting to adopt the following procedure to allow the committee members to monitor their work programme. It is felt that the work programme should be a 'living' document and as such is intended to act as a guide for the Committee throughout the year, while providing the degree of flexibility needed to respond to any emerging or pressing issues as they arise. Committee members, and particularly the Chair, should have a major role in owning and managing the work programme.

The final item on the agenda for each Scrutiny Committee will be 'Review of the Committee Work Programme'.

It is suggested that there should be four short reports. I have attached the following reports:

REPORT 1 - Lists all the issues the committee agreed to include in their Work Programme:

This report lists all items that have been selected by the Committee for inclusion on the work programme for the current year.

It also includes items, such as previous Panel Reviews, where recommendations have been made to Cabinet. It is important that the implementation of these recommendations is monitored. Otherwise there is no measure of the success of scrutiny.

For each item on the work programme, the report gives a description, an indication of how the item will be dealt with, a where possible a relative timescale for the work and brief comments on progress.

REPORT 2 - Suggestions for Additions to Work Programme

The Work Programme for the Committee should be reviewed at each meeting. This will include members having the opportunity to ask for new Items to be added to the programme. This report will list any newly suggested items. Committee will then have the opportunity to agree (or not) for them to be added to the programme.

REPORT 3 - Proposed Outline Meeting Schedule for the Municipal Year

The report lists those items which are likely to be on the meeting agenda. This will give the opportunity for Committee members to take a greater lead in organising their work programme.

REPORT 4 - Progress Report on In-Depth Panel Reviews

This report will give a very brief update on progress / timescales for in-depth panel reviews which are in the 'ownership' of the Committee.

Report 1

MONITORING REPORT FOR ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2010/2011

(Updates are in red)

Date of item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Comments on Progress	Complete
17 TH JUNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resolved – That a work programme listing the reports from chief officers on key issues during the year and the progress of major development schemes form the basis of the committee’s work programme for the current municipal year. ▪ Performance reports, covering the remit of the Scrutiny Committee, would continue to be given on a quarterly basis. ▪ The Forward Plan for the period July to October 2010 had now been published on the Council’s intranet/website and Members’ were invited to indicate to the chair or party spokespersons whether scrutiny should take place of any items contained within the Plan. Any urgent items could also be considered. 	<p>Officer Report</p> <p>Officer Report</p> <p>Officer Report</p>	<p>Agreed items are outlined below.</p>	
15 TH SEPT	<p>Review of work programme</p>	<p>Officer Report</p>	<p>The Committee received an update on its work programme including reports to be scheduled for the next two meetings.</p> <p>Resolved – That the work programme be noted.</p>	
15 TH SEPT	<p>Housing Strategy</p>	<p>Officer Report</p>	<p>The Head of Housing and Regeneration gave a presentation on the Housing Strategy 2005-2010 which had four key aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improving the urban areas of Wirral through tackling low demand. ➤ Providing affordable homes to maintain balanced communities ➤ Delivering Decent Homes ➤ Providing support for those who need it 	

In the presentation he also referred to some key issues, influencing factors, and priority choices.

In addition he circulated a briefing note on the new 15 year Housing Strategy 2011-2026 which outlined a number of significant changes which had occurred and which impacted on its development.

These included the revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy and regional housing targets, no spatial priorities and no firm direction of travel yet with regards to guidance on determining local housing targets. There was a need to re-establish the position with regards to housing numbers through the Core Strategy and he gave details of a two part consultation programme. A further report on the Draft Strategy would be brought to the Committee on 24 November.

The Interim Director responded to a number of comments from Members regarding:

- ◆ The work of the Empty Property Team in bringing empty properties back into use, of which there were now 6000 a rise from 5000 over 12 months. The Empty Property Strategy gave a breakdown of the different factors which led to properties being empty.
- ◆ Affordability which was a national issue and the need to lobby financial institutions to be more responsive in making finance available to first time buyers.
- ◆ Work to be done with RSLs for rented homes.
- ◆ The challenges of bringing the 3400 or so planning permissions for housing to completion.
- ◆ The factors affecting the bringing back into use of those empty properties which had had a different use and, which, although suitable for housing, did not now have planning permission as housing.

Report 3

PROPOSED OUTLINE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR ECONOMY AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2010/2011

Meeting Date	Topic Description
17TH JUNE	<p>The views of the Committee were requested concerning topics to be included in this year's scrutiny work programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resolved – That a work programme listing the reports from chief officers on key issues during the year and the progress of major development schemes form the basis of the committee's work programme for the current municipal year. ▪ Performance reports, covering the remit of the Scrutiny Committee, would continue to be given on a quarterly basis. ▪ The Forward Plan for the period July to October 2010 had now been published on the Council's intranet/website and Members' were invited to indicate to the chair or party spokespersons whether scrutiny should take place of any items contained within the Plan. Any urgent items could also be considered.
15TH SEPT	Housing Strategy
24TH NOV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on Housing Strategy Consultation ▪ Invest Wirral including the support of business in the present economic circumstances ▪ NGA Broadband
12TH JAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Poverty Needs Assessment ▪ Outcomes from projects and programmes currently receiving funding and then to define the future outcomes to be achieved (Programmes include Working Neighbourhoods Fund, Future Jobs Fund, HMRI, Business Start and Business Support Programmes)
14TH MAR	Review of work programme

Report 4

PROGRESS REPORT ON IN-DEPTH PANEL REVIEWS ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

START OF MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/2011

Title of Review	Members of Panel	Progress to Date	Date Due to report back