

Updated Work Programme Scrutiny Programme Board 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 THE SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD START OF MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/2011

(UPDATES IN RED)

Date of item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Comments on Progress	Complete
3RD JUNE	<p>The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management provided an update on the current status of the Scrutiny Programme Board's Work Programme for the 2009/2010 municipal year and invited suggestions from Members regarding the work programme for 2010/2011. He outlined the functions of the Scrutiny Programme Board and indicated that the work programmes of the five themed overview and scrutiny committees would be presented to each meeting of the Board for progress to be reviewed.</p> <p>He set out guidance for the selection of topics for review and commented that an in-depth review should have the potential to make a difference and be carefully chosen with reference to objective criteria. He commented upon sources of ideas for topics for review and referred also to reasons for the rejection of suggested topics..</p>			
3RD JUNE	<u>It was agreed:</u> That the impact on partnerships of any savings that may be required in relation to specific grants, form the basis of a scrutiny review as more information is known.	PANEL REVIEW		
3rd JUNE	<u>Alcohol Scrutiny Review</u> <u>It was agreed:</u> That the Alcohol Scrutiny Review remain as part of the work programme for the new municipal year.	PANEL REVIEW		
3rd JUNE	<u>One Council' Scrutiny Review</u> <u>Resolved</u> – That no further work be undertaken in relation to the 'One Council' Scrutiny Review at the present time.	PANEL REVIEW	Further to minute 44 (4 March 2010) , the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management provided an update upon progress of the 'One Council' Scrutiny Review. He outlined the objective of the review and appended to his report the scoping document previously approved by the Board. The Director sought the views of the Board as to whether the review should remain as part of the work programme for the new municipal year.	

20 th SEPT.,	<p>The Chair presented an updated Monitoring Report on the Committees Work Programme, in order to give Members the opportunity to review it and to ask for new items to be added.</p>		<p><u>Resolved –</u></p> <p>1 That additional topics for review be considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Workshop to be held on 5 October 2010.</p>	
20 th SEPT	<p>The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management reported upon the annual Good Scrutiny Awards, which had recently been presented by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS), and which provided examples of best practice in scrutiny achieved in some authorities. He provided an explanation of the categories in the awards and indicated that although the awards were national, five of this year's winners (out of ten categories) were geographical neighbours of Wirral.</p> <p>Members referred to the substantial amount of scrutiny being undertaken in Wirral and expressed the view that the achievements in scrutiny should form the basis of a submission for the Good Scrutiny Awards 2011.</p>		<p><u>Resolved –</u></p> <p>That the officers be requested to <u>present a report, highlighting examples of excellent scrutiny, to a future meeting of the Board</u>, in time to prepare a submission for the 2011 CfPS Awards.</p>	
20 th SEPT	<p>The Democratic Services Manager referred to the significant work undertaken as part of the Alcohol Scrutiny Review and suggested that it could form the basis of a submission to the CfPS Good Scrutiny Awards 2011 (see minute 24 ante). She also sought the views of Members as to additional topics to form the basis of further scrutiny reviews.</p>		<p><u>Resolved –</u></p> <p>That the Alcohol Scrutiny Review form the basis of a submission to the CfPS Good Scrutiny Awards 2011.</p>	

<p>26TH OCT</p>	<p>The Chair presented an updated Monitoring Report on the Committees Work Programme, in order to give Members the opportunity to review it and to ask for new items to be added.</p> <p>Chairs of Committees had agreed to give serious consideration to future topics for review for inclusion in the Scrutiny Programme Board's Work Programme and to send ideas/suggestions to the Democratic Services Manager.</p> <p>Members had also agreed that an internal "buddying" scheme should be considered to support Councillors new to the Overview and Scrutiny role (see minute 31 ante) and consideration had also been given to Members' training requirements (see minute 32 ante).</p> <p>Other issues discussed at the Scrutiny Workshop included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ That the Overview and Scrutiny undertaken at Wirral Council should be more widely promoted and that a leaflet/booklet detailing success stories should be produced. ▪ Members commented also, having regard to the number of meetings of the Cabinet, that there were not enough meetings of overview and scrutiny committees to ensure/enable effective scrutiny of Cabinet decisions. ▪ Members also expressed the view that a return to the Committee system may improve local accountability 			

Report 2

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD START OF MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/2011

[illegible]

Report 3

PROPOSED OUTLINE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD START OF MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/2011

Meeting Date	Topic Description

Report 4

PROGRESS REPORT ON IN-DEPTH PANEL REVIEWS FOR SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD START OF MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/2011

Title of Review	Members of Panel	Progress to Date	Date Due to report back
<u>Alcohol Scrutiny Review</u>	Councillor Ann Bridson Councillor Chris Meaden Councillor Sue Taylor Councillor Dave Mitchell	<p>Further to minute 17 (14 September 2009) and minute 33 (14 January 2010), members of the Alcohol Scrutiny Panel presented an update on progress for the Alcohol Scrutiny Review. The central focus of the review was the "access to alcohol by young people in Wirral" and the issues which would be focused upon were contained within a scoping document appended to the report. Evidence had been gathered from meetings with officers of Wirral NHS, Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), Children and Young People, Licensing, Trading Standards and Merseyside Police. The Panel members proposed to continue with further evidence gathering, in particular focusing on the education of children (regarding alcohol) and the investigation of progress of initiatives at statistical and geographical neighbours. Members of the Panel indicated that young people would also be interviewed during the course of the review and it was proposed that this would be achieved with input from the Youth Parliament and the Youth Outreach Team.</p> <p><u>(1) That the Alcohol Scrutiny Review remain as part of the work programme for the new municipal year.</u></p> <p>(2) That with the continued input and support from Mr A Veitch (Scrutiny Officer aligned to the Liberal Democrat Group), the following Members be re-appointed to serve on the Alcohol Scrutiny Panel in 2010/2011</p>	<p>It was planned that the final report for the Alcohol Scrutiny Review would be completed by the current panel members in due course</p> <p>This review is now coming to a close and a report is due to be produced shortly. They are waiting for data regarding alcohol-related hospital admissions' including by age, gender & geographical breakdown of the patients. Also, comparative data with geographical and statistical neighbours.</p>

<p><u>‘One Council’ Scrutiny Review</u></p>		<p>Further to minute 44 (4 March 2010), the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management provided an update upon progress of the ‘One Council’ Scrutiny Review. He outlined the objective of the review and appended to his report the scoping document previously approved by the Board. The Director sought the views of the Board as to whether the review should remain as part of the work programme for the new municipal year.</p> <p><u>Resolved – That no further work be undertaken in relation to the ‘One Council’ Scrutiny Review at the present time.</u></p>	
<p>That the impact on partnerships of any savings that may be required in relation to specific grants, form the basis of a scrutiny review as more information is known.</p>	<p>tba</p>		