



Committee and Date
Environment & Services
Scrutiny Committee
[formerly Protecting &
Enhancing our Environment
Scrutiny Committee]

29 July 2013

Item

7

Public

DEVELOPING THE FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Responsible Officer Jane Palmer

e-mail: jane.palmer@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 252748

1. Summary

This report invites Members to consider the future Work Programme for the Environment and Services Scrutiny Committee, formerly the Protecting and Enhancing our Environment Scrutiny Committee, from Autumn 2013 onwards.

2. Recommendations

- A Members are asked to identify topics for inclusion in the Committee's Work Programme.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 There are no direct risks or equalities issues associated with the paper.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications as the Work Programme will be delivered within the existing budgets and support arrangements for Scrutiny Committees.

5. Background

- 5.1 A Scrutiny Review Task and Finish Group undertook a detailed review of scrutiny arrangements and made a number of recommendations, which were accepted by Council on 18 April 2013.
- 5.2 A further report was considered by Council on 18 July 2013 when changes to the Scrutiny Committee names and remits were endorsed.
- 5.3 The proposals for Environment and Services Scrutiny Committee are summarised in the table below:

Former Committee Title	New Committee Title	New Committee Remit	Linked Portfolio Holder
Protecting and Enhancing our Environment Scrutiny Committee	Environment and Services Scrutiny Committee	Highways/ Transport/ Commissioning	Claire Wild
		Leisure/Libraries	Gwilym Butler
		Public Protection Social Housing	

- 5.4 As well as recommending changes to the names and remits of Scrutiny Committees, the Scrutiny Review Task and Finish Group further recommended:
- That continued use be made of the Task and Finish style of working as an accepted method of positive engagement between Members, Officers and those outside the Council.
 - That the Select Committee style of meeting should be the default except where it would not be appropriate or constructive. It will also be important that provision is made for those who receive the services to give evidence in private should that be considered necessary.
 - That all contracts for the commissioning of future services needed to include the requirement for the service providers to be available for scrutiny as much as the Council may require.
- 5.5 The Task and Finish Group recommended that all Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes be considered fully by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee at each meeting to improve transparency of decision making.

6. Additional Information

- 6.1 The Cabinet Forward Plan is attached at Appendix A and Members are invited to consider this when suggesting topics for the Work Programme.
- 6.2 The Annual Scrutiny Work Programme template is attached at Appendix B and a list of suggested topics, including those that were identified during the Committee's informal meeting held in June 2013, will be tabled at the meeting. Members may wish to consider which topics they would like to include on the Work Programme, bearing in mind **the outcomes they wish to achieve**.
- 6.3 Appendix C provides more detail about the different approaches which may be used when scrutinising a particular topic.
- 6.4 If there is a need to prioritise topics, the Scrutiny Chair will discuss suggestions with individual Members to clarify the most appropriate way forward.
- 6.5 If Members require information on a particular issue, the most appropriate approach may be for a written briefing to be sent to the Committee rather than a topic being added to the Work Programme. This would enable Members to be kept informed and updated on developments in young people's services without burdening Scrutiny Committee agendas with too many items. If a Member has concerns after receiving a written briefing, these should be discussed with the Scrutiny Chair to assess whether or not an issue needs to be investigated by the Scrutiny Committee.
- 6.6 There are currently four meeting dates and times for the Environment and Services Scrutiny Committee in the Council Diary, as follows:
- | | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Monday 7 October 2013 | 5.00pm |
| Monday 2 December 2013 | 5.00pm |
| Monday 27 January 2014 | 5.00pm |
| Monday 24 March 2014 | 5.00pm |
- 6.7 These meeting dates may need to be amended, depending on how the Work Programme develops.
- 6.8 With the change of remit, Members are further invited to consider how best to include the views of service users in the work of the Committee in future.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Scrutiny Review Task and Finish Group report to Council, 18 April 2013

Scrutiny Report to Council, 18 July 2013

Cabinet Member/s (Portfolio Holder/s)

Councillor Claire Wild

Councillor Gwilym Butler

Councillor Karen Calder

Local Member/s

All

Appendices

A Cabinet Forward Plan from 24 July 2013 onwards

B Annual Scrutiny Committee Work Programme template

C Scrutiny Committees – Ways of Working