

Future Areas of Scrutiny work using the learning from the Rapid Action Group activities

Responsible Officer

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1. Summary

This report is intended to act as a discussion piece to help shape the work programme for the Scrutiny Committee over the next 12 months, focussing on those key areas within the three year Business Plan and Financial Strategy as well as applying where appropriate the Rapid Action Group learning.

2. Recommendations

Members of the Environment & Services Scrutiny Committee are asked to:

- a) Consider the information contained within the report in relation to those activities that fall under the remit of this Scrutiny Committee.
- b) Identify from this, which areas to focus on over the next 12 months and thus inform the work programme of this Scrutiny Committee.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1** There are no immediate risks associated with this report. In relation to Shropshire Council's three year Business Plan and Financial Strategy, a full risk assessment has been undertaken.
- 3.2** There are a number of opportunities by applying different approaches, be that Task & Finish, or the learning from the Rapid Action Groups, to help shape and inform the redesign activities in the respective areas. This will also ensure Scrutiny are actively involved in the agreed work streams throughout the process.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 This report does not have any direct financial implications, however as is detailed within the report, there are some significant savings attached to the redesign areas which form part of Shropshire Council's overall three year Business Plan and Financial Strategy.

5. Background

5.1 The Environment & Services Scrutiny Committee is one of five Committees across Shropshire Council. The Committee covers the following service areas:

- Natural Environment
- Waste Management
- Public Protection
- Social Housing
- Drugs & Alcohol Misuse
- Leisure & Libraries

5.2 Shropshire Council has recently finalised its three year Business Plan and Financial Strategy 2014-2017. Within that there are a number of key work streams that naturally align themselves to the key areas that the Environment & Service Scrutiny Committee has responsibility for. These areas are attached at Appendix A. Looking at the areas there are a number that could form part of the future work programme for this Scrutiny Committee and further details of those Projects can be provided verbally at the Committee meeting.

5.3 Within Appendix A the work streams have now been grouped under the key outcomes that Shropshire Council has approved. This is encouraging greater creativity around the redesign aspect so that Shropshire Council redesigns around outcomes as opposed to service areas.

6. Rapid Action Groups (RAGs)

6.1 Rapid Action Groups (RAGs) were suggested to the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee by the Leader of the Council as a different method to look at the changes identified in the Business Plan which will deliver the Financial Strategy. Committee agreed that they would pursue this approach, and how they would do it, by commissioning six Rapid Action Groups which reported back to the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee on 12 February 2014.

The original purpose and scope of the RAGs, as agreed by the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee were:

- To provide overview and Scrutiny Members an opportunity to be actively involved in the key stages of the Council's different change work streams.
- To provide challenge at the time of change.
- To ensure that changes will deliver the Council's outcomes.
- Ensuring that the Council is changing in the way that it says it wants to.

6.2 The RAGs approach, following feedback to the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee on 12 February 2014, is in the process of being evaluated. This will identify whether the approach will continue, if it should - how it can be developed further, and will inform the adoption of the approach through the appropriate route i.e. Political Structures Monitoring Committee. Until this has happened, potential new topics for inclusion in the Scrutiny Committees Work Programme should initially be considered against well scoped existing approaches for Scrutiny, including Task & Finish Groups and consideration of topics structured across a number of Committee meetings.

6.3 The RAGs that started in January can be considered by this Scrutiny Committee which can agree whether the work should continue on a Task and Finish basis or (following the review of the RAG process) as a RAG and how they fit into their work programme with appropriate officer support and the production of officer reports back to this Committee.

As part of the six RAGs undertaken, a number fell under the remit of this Scrutiny Committee and included Regulatory & Business Support Model (RABSS) and Waste Review.

Also, whilst not a direct link, but has an independency with this Scrutiny Committee, was the reviews undertaken in the two Rapid Action Groups activities across Adult Social Care.

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

BUSINESS PLAN AND FINANCIAL STRATEGY – 2014/15 TO 2016/17
(Performance Management Scrutiny 12-2-14)

BUSINESS PLAN AND FINANCIAL STRATEGY – 2014/15 TO 2016/17
(Council 27-2-2014)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Cllr Mal Price - Portfolio Holder: Planning, Housing and Commissioning (Central)

Cllr Steve Charmley - Portfolio Holder: Business Growth, ip&e and Commissioning (North)

Cllr Karen Calder - Portfolio Holder: Health

Cllr Gwilym Butler - Portfolio Holder: Leisure, Libraries and Culture

Local Member

Appendices

Appendix A – Key Activities for Environment & Service Scrutiny Committee