

BUSINESS SUPPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 FEBRUARY 2007

WORK PROGRAMME

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

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1 Purpose of item

- 1.1 The item advises Members of the current work programme and allows them to adjust it in the light of latest priorities, issues and circumstances. It gives Members the opportunity to shape and direct the Committee's activities over the year.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members consider whether any changes need to be made to the work programme and whether to add any items from the Cabinet's forward plan as pre-decision scrutiny.
- 2.2 To consider the motion referred from the Council meeting on 18 December 2006 suggesting that a task group be set up to consider practical ways to reduce the Council's energy consumption in accordance with paragraph 4 below.

3 Agenda planning meeting

- 3.1. Members will be aware that Overview and Scrutiny Committees hold agenda planning meetings on a regular basis. These give officers greater guidance on information Members wish them to provide when scrutinising an issue.
- 3.2. On 23 January 2007 an agenda planning meeting took place where the current work programme was considered. At that meeting Members requested that the Director of Community Services and Director of Children's Services are invited to the next meeting in the event that Members of the Committee wish to question the overspend in their directorates.

4 Proposed changes

- 4.1. At the Council meeting on 18 December 2006 a motion was put forward by Councillor Luckhurst as follows:

- 4.2. "The Council is Medway's biggest employer, and it is probably one of Medway's biggest users of power. Computers, copiers and similar items of office equipment are often left on 'standby' for hours on end, or worse, overnight. Meanwhile, lights are left on everywhere and many offices are 'over' heated. There are many examples of where the Council urges people to act responsibly with regard to the environment, but it is time for the Council to lead by example .

We propose a small group of Members (one from each political party) and a similar number of senior officers form an 'ad-hoc' group to consider practical ways to reduce the Council's energy waste, and recommend the Cabinet to approve implementation."

- 4.3. Councillor Rodney Chambers, supported by Councillor Jarrett, proposed the following amendment to the motion:

"That the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee forms a task group to consider practical ways to reduce the Council's energy consumption."

On being put to the vote the amendment was agreed.

- 4.4. As energy consumption is within the remit of this Committee Members are asked to consider the above suggestion and note that Councillors Kenneth Bamber, Griffiths and Guichard have been nominated as task group members.

5 Cabinet Forward Plan

- 5.1. The key decisions identified in the Cabinet's forward plan that fall within the remit of this Committee are already scheduled for this Committee.

6 Legal and financial implications

- 6.1 There are no financial or legal implications arising from this report.

7 Background papers

- 7.1. None

Lead officer contact

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