

## **BUSINESS SUPPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**10 DECEMBER 2009**

### **WORK PROGRAMME**

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

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#### **Summary**

This 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.

#### **1. Budget and Policy Framework**

- 1.1 Under Chapter 4 – Rules, paragraph 22.1 (v) General terms of reference, each overview and scrutiny committee has the responsibility for setting its own work programme.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1.1 Appendix 1 to this report sets out the existing work programme for the committee.

#### **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. An agenda planning meeting was held on 19 November 2009.

#### **4. Future work programme**

##### **4.1 Cabinet's Forward Plan**

There are six new items which have been added to the Forward Plan since the last meeting of this Committee, which are not already on the work programme or have already been considered and these are detailed below.

4.1.1 Review of the Council Statement of Gambling Policy 15 December 2009

This report seeks to review the Council Statement of Gambling Policy.

There is insufficient time for the Committee to consider this matter.

4.1.2 Comprehensive Area Assessment: Medway Council's Organisational Assessment Score 15 December 2009

This will formally report the Audit Commission's CAA organizational assessment report and score for the council to members.

There is insufficient time for the Committee to consider this matter.

4.1.3 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 15 December 2010

This report will inform members of the details of the proposed local government settlement relating to Medway for the financial year 2010/11.

There is insufficient time for the Committee to consider this matter.

4.1.4 Gateway 1 Options Appraisal: General and Housing Debt Advice Recommissioning 5 January 2010

This paper will seek approval from Cabinet to proceed with the recommissioning of General and Debt Advice services in Medway.

There is insufficient time for the Committee to consider this matter

4.1.5 Medway Single Equality Scheme 26 January 2010

This report will seek approval to the Council's Single Equality Scheme.

There is insufficient time for the Committee to consider this matter.

4.1.6 Annual Equalities Report 26 January 2010

This will set out the Annual Equalities Report for Cabinet's consideration and approval.

There is insufficient time for the Committee to consider this matter.

**5. The co-ordinating role of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

- 5.1 Under Medway's constitution, Chapter 4 – Rules – paragraph 22.2 (xxiii) this Committee has the overall responsibility 'to provide guidance and leadership on the development and co-ordination of the scrutiny function for all Overview and Scrutiny Committees, including guidance on priorities for scrutiny activities'.

5.2 To assist the Committee in fulfilling this role the Chairman has agreed that a regular overview of business discussed by the other O and S Committees should be presented at these meetings. Whilst each O and S Committee is able to determine its own work programme this Committee may wish to comment on common themes and the balance of business being covered by each Committee. The work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees can include:

- items raised by individual members of the Committee or any six members of the Council who are not members of the Committee
- work on matters referred for review by the Council.
- Pre-decision scrutiny of items on the Cabinet's Forward Plan selected by the Committee for discussion
- policy review and development often undertaken in small cross party task groups. Each Committee usually undertakes one or two reviews of this type each year.
- pre-budget scrutiny
- consideration of petitions presented at Full Council
- consideration of called-in Cabinet decisions

5.3 Appendix 2 to this report sets out an overview of the work undertaken by each Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the last cycle of meetings and for the next cycle. In addition Appendix 3 sets out the items in the Cabinet's Forward Plan indicating by asterisk items identified by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee for pre-decision scrutiny.

## **6 Cabinet Forward Plan**

6.1 Appendix 3 sets out the current forward plan.

## **7. Financial and legal implications**

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

## **8. Recommendations**

8.1 That Members consider whether any changes need to be made to the work programme, including whether to add any items from the forward plan.

8.2 Members are asked to note the work undertaken by all overview and scrutiny committees in the last cycle and to be considered at the next cycle of meetings (set out in appendix 2 to this report).

### **Lead officer contact**

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