

Meeting: Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Agenda Item: 4

Portfolio Area: All

Date: 3 June 2013

SCRUTINY WORKPLAN ITEM FOR 2013-14

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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. Following the agreed change to the Member Level Scrutiny arrangements at Annual Council 22 May 2013, Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (O&S Committee) are asked to consider which item it will review from those previously agreed to by the former Development and Scrutiny Committees.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees which of the items it will consider as a Scrutiny review for the 2013/14 Municipal Year from those listed at 4.2 previously chosen by the former Resources Development & Scrutiny Committee.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. As part of the evaluation of the current Member Level Scrutiny arrangements all Scrutiny Members were sent a survey to comment on the current arrangements. Following this survey it was apparent that satisfaction with the 7 Development and Scrutiny arrangements was mixed and Scrutiny Members were further consulted on four potential scrutiny options and asked to select their favoured option. Following this process Members agreed a new Member Level Scrutiny arrangement of 1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee and 3 Select Committees.
- 3.2. The former Development and Scrutiny Committees had met throughout March 2013 to agree their Scrutiny items and note their work plans for 2013/14. Accordingly, since the change in the Member Level Scrutiny arrangements at Annual Council, Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the three Scrutiny Select Committees (Community, Environment & Economy and Housing) are each invited to agree which of the reviews previously identified (subject to the matter being appropriate for the Committee) they would wish to scrutinise and to note other work that falls within their remit.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS

4.1. It will be necessary for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as well as the three Scrutiny Select Committees to identify the Scrutiny studies they wish to include in their work plans in order that the Council's Scrutiny Work Programme can be delivered.

4.2. Scrutiny Review Item

4.2.1 As well as noting that the Resources Development and Scrutiny Committee had responsibility to scrutinise the Council's Budget and Policy Framework items it also agreed at its meeting on 25 March 2013 to scrutinise Members Expenses and Hospitality (1 meeting review in July).

4.3 Budget & Policy Framework Items

4.3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have responsibility to scrutinise Budget and Policy Framework items through scrutiny of the budget and policy framework reports following meetings of the Executive. The following matters have been identified for scrutiny by the Committee as Budget & Policy Framework items -

- The 2014/2015 HRA and Rent Setting
- General Fund Budget and Council Tax Setting
- Savings and Growth Proposals
- Stevenage Borough Local Plan
- Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule

4.3.2 The Committee to scrutinise any further Budget and Policy Framework items as and when required in accordance with the Council's Constitution, Article 4 and Section 4 Rules of Procedure.

4.4 Policy Development

4.4.1 The O&S Committee are asked to note the following Policy Development items which they will be invited to undertake during the 2013/14 Municipal year that were advised by Officers at the Resources Development and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 25 March 2013:

- Local Community Budgets – to include case studies (early June)
- Corporate Debt Policy (over two meetings)
- Compliance Contract
- Shared Services

4.5 Monitoring of previous Review Recommendations

4.5.1 The O&S Committee are invited to consider revisiting the recommendations and Executive Member responses to former reviews of the Resources Development & Scrutiny Committee to be scheduled throughout the year. Accordingly Members may wish to revisit the following items to monitor progress of the recommendations of the following former reviews into: Treasury Management Strategy

4.5.2 It may be considered sufficient to simply request update briefings from the relevant Heads of Service to be circulated to Members at appropriate intervals. However, if the Committee requires more detailed consideration or examination of the progress of previous recommendations this should be factored into its work programme.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Financial Implications

5.1.1. There are no financial implications to this report.

5.2. Legal Implications

5.2.1. There are no legal implications to this report.

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Annual Council Agenda and Item 5 Constitutional Issues report – 22 May 2013

7. APPENDICES

None