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| REPORT TO: | ENVIRONMENTAL & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE | AGENDA ITEM: |
| DATE OF MEETING: | 23 AUGUST 2007 | CATEGORY: DELEGATED |
| REPORT FROM: | OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | OPEN: |
| MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT: | CLLR N ATKIN (CHAIR - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE) | DOC: |
| SUBJECT: | OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME | REF: |
| WARD (S) AFFECTED: | ALL | TERMS OF REFERENCE: |

1.0 Recommendation

1.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- Receive this report
- Comment of the matters highlighted in paragraph 3.6

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Work programme for 2007/08 and to seek views on the scope of review, priorities and further matters for inclusion.

3.0 Detail

Scope of the Work Programme

3.1 The Committee's work programme for the current year includes a mixture of projects carried over from the last Council year and new projects.

3.2 The intention is to focus on 'outward facing' issues which are important to local people. These include, for example, flooding, public transport and local health services

3.3 A copy of the outline programme is attached at Annexe A.

3.4 For each topic, there is a brief outline of the initial scope of the review, progress to date and the next steps in the review process.

Environmental and Development Services Committee Input

3.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is concerned to ensure that its work 'adds value' to the work of this Committee.

3.6 Comments are particularly welcome on:

- The contents of the work programme
- The scope of the reviews which fall within the terms of reference of this Committee
- Priorities for review (this will help the Overview and Scrutiny Committee compile a more detailed work programme)
- Whether the Committee has any further issues/topics for inclusion in the work programme

Community Involvement

3.7 A further aim of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to increase involvement by local people and groups in its work.

3.8 As part of this process, the scrutiny pages on the web site have been updated and there is now an opportunity for members of the public to leave comments.

3.9 Members' support in promoting community involvement in the scrutiny process would be welcomed

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None arising directly from this report

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08

Flooding (New project)

Committee Responsibility: Environmental and Development Services

Scope:

- Role of the Flood Liaison Committee
- Emergency planning arrangements
- Communication with communities
- Planned flood prevention measures.

Position to date:

- Initial baseline report produced (August 2007)
- A related action has been included in the Corporate Plan 2007/10 under the Safer and Healthier theme

Next Steps:

- Issues to be explored with Director of Community Services at September meeting
- Detailed project plan to be produced
- Environmental and Development Services Committee to monitor delivery of the Corporate Plan action as part of the quarterly performance reports

Public / Community Transport (New project)

Committee Responsibility: Environmental and Development Services

Scope:

- Availability / adequacy of bus and rail services across the district

Position to date:

- Contact made with Derbyshire County Council and consideration given to contributing to a review of rural bus services being undertaken by the County Council
- Initial baseline data collected on policy background, services, previous community consultation about public transport and community transport and identification of key issues (for inclusion in County review)
- A related action has been included in the Corporate Plan 2007/10 under the Rural South

Derbyshire theme

- Next Steps:
- Consultation with Environmental and Development Services Committee on key issues
 - Feedback provided to Derbyshire County Council and way ahead finalised
 - Environmental and Development Services Committee to monitor delivery of the Corporate Plan action as part of the quarterly performance reports

Broadband Availability (New project)

Committee Responsibility: Environmental and Development Services

- Scope:
- Availability of broadband across the district (especially in terms of the impact on businesses and people working from home)

- Position to date:
- A review of previous work on this issue has been completed (August 2007)

- Next Steps:
- Information request to BT about the availability of broadband services in rural areas
 - Consideration given to the possibility of linking the review to a review by Derbyshire County Council on broadband in schools
 - Detailed project plan to be produced

Partnership Working (New Project)

Committee Responsibility: Finance and Management Committee

- Scope:
- The Council's contribution to the Derbyshire Local Area Agreement and South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership

- Position to date:
- Identification for the first time (August 2007)

- Next Steps:
- Detailed scope of the project to be defined and project plan produced

Health issues (Existing project)

Committee Responsibility: Housing and Community Services

- Scope:
- Availability / adequacy of health service provision across the district
- Position to date:
- Chief Executive and Chair of former Community Scrutiny Committee have met with the Chief Executive of the Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust (February 07)
- Next Steps:
- Baseline paper to be produced detailing how health services are delivered across the district and identifying any reported gaps in provision, future plans and feedback from local communities
 - Explore linkages with Derbyshire County Council's review programme

Rural Post Offices (Existing Project)

Committee Responsibility: Finance and Management

- Scope:
- Further project development / - ongoing monitoring and review
- Position to date:
- Initial stage of review completed and recommendations were approved by Full Council in January 2007 (Minute CL/107)
 - A related action has been included in the Corporate Plan 2007/10 under the Rural South Derbyshire theme
 - Office working group established to deliver the actions
- Next Steps:
- Consideration of proposals from CVS and CAB on possible partnership working
 - Finance and Management Committee to monitor delivery of the Corporate Plan action as part of the quarterly performance reports

Street-scene (Existing project with Derbyshire County Council)

Committee Responsibility: Environmental and Development Services Committee

Scope:

- Monitoring and review of project delivery

Position to date:

- The review was completed and reported to the Environmental and Development Services Committee in February 2007 (Minute EDS/69)
- A related action has been included in the Corporate Plan under the Higher Quality Services theme

Next Steps:

- Environmental and Development Services Committee to monitor delivery of the Corporate Plan action as part of the quarterly performance reports

Budget (An annual project)

Committee Responsibility: Finance and Management Committee and Full Council

Scope:

- Advise Council on the robustness of the budget proposals and arrangements for consultation with key stakeholders
- Examine any specific issues raised by the Finance and Management Committee

Position to date:

- Budget timetable considered (August 2007)

Next Steps:

- Views of Finance and Management Committee sought on any specific matters to be examined
- Detailed project plan produced

Overview and Scrutiny Website Pages (On-going project)

Committee
Responsibility:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Scope:

- Use of Council website to communicate with and engage local people / groups in the scrutiny process

Position to date:

- Basic update of website completed

Next Steps:

- Ongoing updating and development