

**Report To:** Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 8 March 2012

**Report Author:** Scrutiny Coordinator

**Title:** Scrutiny Work Programme

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**1. What is the report about?**

The report presents the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee with its draft forward work programme for members' consideration.

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

To seek the Committee to review and agree on its programme of future work, and to update members on relevant issues.

**3. What are the recommendations?**

That the Committee considers the information provided and approves, revises or amends its forward work programme as it deems appropriate.

**4. Report details.**

4.1 The Constitution of Denbighshire County Council requires scrutiny committees to prepare and keep under review a programme for their future work. By reviewing and prioritising issues, members are able to ensure that the work programme delivers a member-led agenda.

4.2 The Committee is therefore requested to consider its draft work programme for future meetings, as detailed in appendix 1, and approve, revise or amend it as it deems appropriate taking into consideration:

- issues raised by members of the Committee
- matters referred to it by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group
- relevance to the Committee's/Council's/community priorities
- the Council's Corporate Plan and the Director of Social Services' Annual Report
- meeting workload
- timeliness
- outcomes
- key issues and information to be included in reports
- officers and/or lead Cabinet members who should be invited (having regard to whether their attendance is necessary or would add value)

- questions to be put to officers/lead Cabinet members
- 4.3 When considering future items for inclusion on the forward work programme members may also find it helpful to have regard to the following questions when determining a subject's suitability for inclusion on the work programme:
- what is the issue?
  - who are the stakeholders?
  - what is being looked at elsewhere
  - what does scrutiny need to know? and
  - who may be able to assist?
- 4.4 As mentioned in paragraph 4.1 above the Constitution of Denbighshire County Council requires scrutiny committees to prepare and keep under review a programme for their future work. To assist the process of prioritising reports, if officers are of the view that a subject merits time for discussion on the Committee's business agenda they have to formally request the Committee to consider receiving a report on that topic. This is done via the submission of a 'proposal form' which clarifies the purpose, importance and potential outcomes of suggested issues. Two such proposal forms have been received for consideration at the current meeting. These requests, which can be seen at Appendices 2a and 2b, relate to the Partnerships Governance Toolkit and the New Work Connections project. Members are asked to consider these requests.
- 4.5 The Committee's next meeting on 19 April is its last scheduled meeting of the current municipal year, and of the present Council's term of office. If the Committee accepts the item on the Partnerships Governance Toolkit onto its work programme it will have three items of business listed for consideration at that meeting. The Committee is asked to consider whether there are any subject areas or topics which it feels would benefit from scrutiny prior to the conclusion of the municipal year and the current Council's term of office.
- 4.6 Cabinet Forward Work Programme  
A copy of the Cabinet's forward work programme is attached at Appendix 3. The Committee may find this document useful when considering items for inclusion on its programme of future work.
- 4.7 Progress on Committee Resolutions  
A table summarising recent Committee resolutions and advising members on progress with their implementation is attached at Appendix 4 to this report.

- 4.8 Joint Meeting with Conwy County Borough Council  
Unfortunately, due to a regional event having been arranged by the Home Office for 8 March on Police and Crime Commissioners, the second joint informal meeting of Denbighshire and Conwy's Partnerships Scrutiny Committees had to be cancelled. Due to the proximity of the local authority elections the next joint informal meeting of the Committees will not now take place before early summer 2012.

## **5. Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group**

- 5.1 Under the new scrutiny arrangements the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) has assumed the role of a coordinating committee and can thus seek individual committees to accept topics onto their forward work programmes or recommend that certain topics are re-allocated to another scrutiny committee if agenda pressures are identified, or if it is deemed that the topic is better aligned to another committee's remit.

### Regional Collaboration on Economic Development

- 5.2 At its meeting on 16 February the SCVCG considered a request from officers that a scrutiny committee receive a report outlining the potential for regional collaboration in the area of economic development. Due to the topic's close link to the Council's regeneration corporate priority the Group was of the view that this item did merit scrutiny's time and input. It has therefore asked that Partnerships Scrutiny Committee accepts the item onto its forward work programme for July 2012 (see entry 2 under July 2012 on Appendix 1). The Committee is asked to confirm its acceptance of this request.

## **6. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

Effective scrutiny will assist the Council to deliver its corporate priorities in line with community needs and residents' wishes. Continual development and review of a coordinated work programme will assist the Council in monitoring and reviewing policy issues.

## **7. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

Services may need to allocate officer time to assist the Committee with the activities identified in the forward work programme, and with any actions that may result following consideration of those items.

## **8. What consultations have been carried out?**

None required for this report. However, the report itself and the consideration of the forward work programme represent a consultation process with the Committee with respect to its programme of future work.

**9. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

No risks have been identified with respect to the consideration of the Committee's forward work programme. However, by regularly reviewing its forward work programme the Committee can ensure that areas of risk are considered and examined as and when they are identified, and recommendations are made with a view to addressing those risks.

**10. Power to make the decision**

Article 6.3.7 of the Council's Constitution stipulates that the Council's scrutiny committees must prepare and keep under review a programme for their future work.

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