

Report to: Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting: 27 September 2012
Report Author: Scrutiny Coordinator
Title: Scrutiny Work Programme

1. What is the report about?

The report presents 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:

- 3.1 considers the information provided and approves, revises or amends its forward work programme as it deems appropriate;
- 3.2 confirms Councillor Dewi Owens' appointment as its representative on the Schools Standards Monitoring Group; and
- 3.3 nominates a representatives, and a substitute representative, to serve on the Corporate Equalities Group.

4. Report details.

- 4.1 Article 6 of the Council's Constitution sets out each Scrutiny Committee's terms of reference, functions and membership, whilst the rules of procedure for scrutiny committees are laid out in Part 4 of the Constitution.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 For a number of years it has been an adopted practice in Denbighshire for scrutiny committees to limit the number of reports considered at any one meeting to a maximum of four plus the Committee's own work programme report. The objective of this approach is to facilitate detailed and effective debate on each topic.
- 4.4 The Committee is 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. When deciding on the work programme members are asked to take 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

4.5 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?

4.6 As mentioned in paragraph 4.2 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 topics. No proposal forms have been received for consideration by the Committee at the current meeting.

4.7 Cabinet Forward Work Programme

When deciding on their programme of future work it is useful for scrutiny committees to have regard to Cabinet's scheduled programme of future work. For this purpose a copy of the Cabinet's forward work programme is attached at Appendix 2.

4.8 Progress on Committee Resolutions

A table summarising recent Committee resolutions and advising members on progress with their implementation is attached at Appendix 3 to this report.

- 4.9 Flood Risk Areas within Denbighshire
Communities Scrutiny Committee at its July meeting decided to ask Partnerships Scrutiny Committee to consider an item on 'Flood Risk Areas within Denbighshire' (see first entry under 'Future Issues' section on Appendix 1). Although this topic was initially considered by Communities Scrutiny Committee in 2011 it is of the view that the subject is more aligned with Partnerships Scrutiny Committee's remit as it involves some considerable amount of partnership working. The Committee is asked to consider this request.

Six monthly meeting with representatives from the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB)

- 4.10 A Special Meeting of the Committee had been scheduled for 11th October 2012 for the purpose of its regular six monthly meeting with representatives from the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB). BCUHB representatives attend scrutiny committee meetings across the six North Wales local authorities on a six monthly basis to discuss national and regional developments, as well as issues of local concern, with elected members. However, as the public consultation exercise on the proposals contained in the 'Healthcare in North Wales is Changing' document does not close until 28 October, and as BCUHB representatives have already visited the Council as part of that consultation exercise, the regular meeting with scrutiny will not take place on the above date as originally planned. Nevertheless, BCUHB officials have offered to come to Denbighshire on 29 November for the purpose of its next 6 monthly meeting with scrutiny. The Chair has accepted this offer and consequently a Special Meeting of the Committee will be held at County Hall, Ruthin at 2pm on Thursday, 29 November. The potential topics for discussion at the meeting are listed on Appendix 1 attached.

Proposals for a Fully Integrated Highways and Infrastructure Service for Conwy and Denbighshire

- 4.11 As Committee members already had the special meeting on 11 October scheduled into their diaries, and in response to a request from officers for the Committee to consider the proposals being put forward for a fully Integrated Highways and Infrastructure Service for Conwy County Borough Council and Denbighshire County Council prior to their submission to Cabinet on 23 October, the Chair has given his consent for the Special Meeting on 11 October to be used to scrutinise these proposals.

5. Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group

Under the Council's scrutiny arrangements the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) performs the role of a coordinating committee. This Group is scheduled to meet again on 20 September 2012. Consequently, any recommendations or decisions taken by the Group at that meeting, which either directly or indirectly affect

Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, will be reported verbally to the Committee on 27 September.

6. Appointment of Committee Representatives on Council Groups and Boards

- 6.1 Periodically the Committee is asked to appoint representatives from amongst its membership to serve on various Council Boards and Groups.
- 6.2 Since the Committee's last meeting an e-mail has been sent to all Committee members seeking expressions of interest to serve as Committee representatives on the Schools Standards Monitoring Group (SSMG) and the Corporate Equalities Group (CEG). A request was also made for a member to serve as a substitute representative on the Corporate Equalities Group.
- 6.3 One expression of interest has been received to serve on the Schools Standards Monitoring Group (SSMG), from Councillor Dewi Owens. No one has yet put their name forward for either the member or substitute member position on the Corporate Equalities Group. The Committee is therefore asked to confirm Councillor Dewi Owens' appointment as its representative on SSMG and to nominate a representative and substitute representative on the Corporate Equalities Group.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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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