

Report to: Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 8 November 2012

Report Author: Democratic Services Officer

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 Community Safety Partnership

CCTV provision

At the Committee's previous meeting, during discussion of the Community Safety Partnership, a number of questions were raised in

respect of Denbighshire's provision for CCTV which the Head of Planning and Public Protection said would be clarified at the next meeting of the Corporate Executive Team. An update on the issues discussed at this meeting has been received and the main points are summarised in Appendix 3.

The Head of Planning and Public Protection has advised that it would be appropriate for one of the scrutiny committees to consider the options for service delivery in light of the identified saving requirements for the CCTV team in February, March or April next year.

Police Issues referred to Police Implementation Group

During the discussion a number of issues relating to law and order were also raised and the Community Safety Partnership Manager advised that these would be referred to the Police Implementation Group. A response received from the Community Safety Partnership Manager is included in Appendix 4.

4.9 Update: Higher Education in North Wales - Glyndwr University Press Article

Following on from the report on the Review of Higher Education in North Wales received by the Committee on 27th September, Councillor Huw Williams raised a concern at the Committee's meeting on 11th October that the Times University Guide had found a low level of student satisfaction at Glyndwr University, and asked for this to be looked in to. The Corporate Director: Customers has contacted Glyndwr University to ask for an explanation and this will be forwarded to members of the Committee when a response is received.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

Contact Officer:

Democratic Services Officer

Tel No: (01824) 712575

Email: dcc_admin@denbighshire.gov.uk