

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

To: County Council

Date: 15th October 2013

From: Overview and Scrutiny Management Group

Purpose: To provide the work programmes for the Council's Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committees for 2013/14.

Recommendation: The Council is invited to consider and comment on the O&S Committees' work programmes for 2013/14.

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1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Council's Constitution states that:

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Group will propose an annual work plan to the annual meeting of Council, including recommending the setting up of any ad hoc Panels¹

Also:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees shall also respond, as soon as their work programme permits, to requests from the Council and if it considers it appropriate the Cabinet to review particular areas of Council activity. Where they do so, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall report their findings and any recommendations back to the Cabinet and/or Council².

1.2 Following the May Council elections, each Overview and Scrutiny Committee underwent an induction process which led to the first round of public meetings which took place in July. The Committees have subsequently developed their work programmes and are now in a position to present them to Council.

1.3 The first meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Group is due to take place on the 24th October. However, Group Members were consulted by email and agreed to submit this report.

1.4 The Committee work programmes are appended to this report as follows:

- Adults Wellbeing and Health – Appendix A
- Children and Young People – Appendix B
- Enterprise, Growth and Community Infrastructure – Appendix C
- Resources and Performance – Appendix D
- Safer and Stronger Communities – Appendix E

1.5 Committee work programmes are considered at each Committee meeting and are amended throughout the year to take account of new issues.

Role and Purpose of Overview and Scrutiny

1.6 Overview and Scrutiny's role and purpose is to improve the delivery of public services through providing challenge both to the Cabinet, and to external organisations where there are issues of public concern, through acting as a community leader and championing the concerns of the public.

¹ Part 4.5, section 7

² Part 4.5, section 9

- 1.7 Since May 2011 this role has been expanded to include “Overview”. “Overview“ in the Cambridgeshire County Council context means the ability for Overview and Scrutiny Members to review and provide “critical friend” challenge to the executive (Cabinet and/or senior officers) in respect of policies, procedures or services that are in development but have yet to be formally agreed by Cabinet.
- 1.8 Cabinet may request that Overview and Scrutiny provide overview (or indeed scrutiny) of specific areas where they believe such overview (or scrutiny) would be likely to result in improvement. However, while the Overview and Scrutiny function is likely to consider such requests, the independence of the function means that it reserves the right to refuse any such request.
- 1.9 Overview and Scrutiny Members may also independently develop policy proposals.
- 1.10 This “overview “ is conducted in accordance with the Authority’s Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and will normally be conducted in public.
- 1.11 Overview and Scrutiny Committees have the facility to ‘call in’ and examine Cabinet decisions, and refer them back to Cabinet for reconsideration.

The objective of Overview and Scrutiny

- 1.12 The objective for Cambridgeshire’s Overview and Scrutiny Committees is to deliver robust accountability and service improvement to ensure that the Council effectively delivers its vision of:
- Developing the local economy for the benefit of all;
 - Helping people live healthy and independent lives;
 - Supporting and protecting vulnerable people
- 1.13 In the year ahead Overview and Scrutiny will continue to:
- Be aligned to Council priorities and service delivery principles;
 - Act as a tool to help drive performance and efficiency;
 - Be externally focussed, where appropriate, looking in particular at the work of partnerships and their impact on Cambridgeshire;
 - Play an effective role in the strong governance of the organisation by remaining alert and responsive to internal concerns, raising challenge and holding to account where appropriate;
 - Work as efficiently and effectively as possible through joint scrutiny arrangements

Source Documents	Location
Council Constitution Reports and minutes of the Council's O&S Committees 2013/14	Room 116 Shire Hall Cambridge

APPENDIX A – ADULTS WELLBEING AND HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Adult Social Care and Integrated Services

- Commissioning of Older People Services
- Support for carers, including young carers
- Adult Social Care:
 - Implementation of Business Plan 2013/14
 - Development of Business Plan 2014/15
- Follow up: recommendations and outcomes from 2012/13 review of delayed discharge and discharge planning
- Reducing the number of adults with learning disabilities placed out of county
- Adult Social Care Transport Policy
- Adult Social Care IT

Health Care

- The plans and performance of the Clinical Commissioning Group and Local Commissioning Groups, including patient engagement.
- East of England Ambulance Trust performance and plans
- Hinchingsbrooke Hospital performance and plans
- Scrutiny of regional proposals for surgery for liver metastases
- Mental Health service provision
- Effectiveness of the NHS 111 telephone service
- Level of support given to families who experience a miscarriage, stillbirth or neonatal death
- Implications of financial situation of Peterborough Hospital

Public Health and health inequalities

- Public Health Business Plan 2014/15
- Review of progress in tackling health inequalities

APPENDIX B – CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Overarching

- Business Plan 2014/15

Children's Social Care

- The Improvement Programme for Children's Social Care
- Local Safeguarding Children Board: Annual Report 2012/13
- Together for Families – Support for Vulnerable Families
- Corporate Parenting: overcoming procedural obstacles to looked after children leading normal lives
- Social Care IT systems

Education

- Narrowing the attainment gap between children of vulnerable groups and the rest
- Demographic forecasting and planning in relation to school places
- How the service is responding to children with Special Education Needs – in relation to the whole pathway from assessment, statementing and provision of support through to outcomes.
- Raising the participation age: How the Council is responding to the new requirement to keep young people in education or training until 18
- Governance of Schools: Training and support of governors to fulfil their role effectively
- Review of secondary education in Cambridge
- Provision of childcare places, in relation to capacity, location and quality
- Transport: financial support for education transport for children aged 16-17
- Cambridgeshire Music – impact of changes in funding arrangements and the Council's responsibility to deliver

Children's Health and Wellbeing

- Children and young people's mental health services
- Council's role / contribution to reducing childhood obesity
- Role and effectiveness of children's centres
- Commissioning of Children's Health Services

APPENDIX C – ENTERPRISE, GROWTH AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- Cambridgeshire Highways Services Contract:
 - Annual Performance Review 2012 and Current Performance
 - Cambridgeshire Highways Services 2016 (options at the expiration of the contract)
- Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Contract Review 2013
- Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme
- Highways Maintenance Practice Review
- Mobilising Local Energy Investment
- Solar Farms Potential on County Farms Estate
- Cambridge Park and Ride – Parking Charges (Called in Decision)
- Economy, Environment and Transport Business Plan Proposals 2014/15, including review of 2013/14 performance
- Infrastructure Deficit (in relation to new developments)
- A14 Developments – including: implications on County Council budgets of de-trunking of some of the junctions by the Highways Agency
- Waste Private Finance Initiative (PFI)
- Connecting Cambridgeshire
- Disabled Accessibility
- Lessons learned from Cambridgeshire Guided Busway Project

APPENDIX D – RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- Delivery of the Capital Programme
- Thematic Reviews
- Overview of the Contact Centre
- Coroner Services
- Corporate Leadership Pay Review 2013/14
- Council's New Governance Model
- Integrated Resources and Performance report (standing item)
- Business Plan proposals (including Scrutiny of alternative proposals)
- Scope of LGSS
- Making Assets Count
- Employment Review
- Procurement Review Follow Up
- Use of Consultants Review Follow Up
- LGSS Scrutiny Group (a standing sub group comprising Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire County Councillors to review LGSS)
- Coroners Review

APPENDIX E – SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- Volunteering at Cambridgeshire County Council
- Update from Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable (standing item)
- Business Plan proposals
- Archives / History Centre Review
- Persistent offending Review
- Adult Learning Review
- Localism Review
- Culture Strategy