

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee	Communities Overview And Scrutiny Committee
Date of Committee	10th November 2010
Report Title	Committee Work Programme and suggested topics for Task and Finish Groups
Summary	This report outlines the draft work programme for the Committee and review outlines for suggested Task and Finish Groups to be passed onto the Overview and Scrutiny Board for consideration.
For further information please contact:	Michelle McHugh Overview and Scrutiny Manager Tel: 01926 412144 michellemchugh@warwickshire.gov.uk
Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?	No.
Background papers	None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

Other Committees	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Member(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Other Elected Members	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cllr Whitehouse, Cllr Chattaway, Cllr Sweet, Cllr Williams
Cabinet Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chief Executive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Strategic Directors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Carter, Strategic Director for Customers, Workforce and Governance
District Councils	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Health Authority ☐
- Police ☐
- Other Bodies/Individuals ☐

FINAL DECISION NO

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee ☐
- To Council ☐
- To Cabinet ☐
- To an O & S Committee ☒ Suggested review outlines for Task and Finish Groups to be forwarded onto the Overview and Scrutiny Board on (10th November) for consideration
- To an Area Committee ☐
- Further Consultation ☐

Agenda No

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 10th November 2010.

Committee Work Programme and suggested topics for Task and Finish Groups

Report of the Chair of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to agree:

- i) the work programme, to be reviewed and reprioritised as appropriate throughout the year
- ii) the suggested review outlines and forward them onto the Overview and Scrutiny Board for consideration

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Committee's Work Programme is attached as Appendix A. The Work Programme will be reviewed and reprioritised throughout the year so that the Committee can adopt a flexible approach and respond to issues as they emerge.
- 1.2 At its meeting on the 5th October 2010, the Overview and Scrutiny Board considered the Committee's proposals for Task and Finish Groups in relation to:
 - Control of Alcohol – Review of Licensing
 - Supporting the Local Economy
 - Skills Agenda and Adult Learning
- 1.3 The Board requested that as the skills agenda is central to supporting the local economy, that the skills agenda be incorporated into the supporting the local economy review, as opposed to having two separate reviews. Consequently, the review outline for Supporting the Local Economy has been revised and is attached as Appendix B for the Committee's consideration prior to it being reconsidered by the O+S Board at its meeting on the 10th November.
- 1.4 In relation to the Control of Alcohol review, the O+S Board requested that consideration be given to widening the scope of the review to include the impact of alcohol abuse. However, as DAAT have recently published an Alcohol Implementation Plan 2010-11 to sit underneath the Warwickshire

Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, it is considered untimely for the wider issues associated with alcohol abuse to be subject to a scrutiny review at this time. Therefore, it is proposed that the Communities OSC scrutinise the outcomes achieved through Alcohol Implementation Plan during 2011 and that the proposed review regarding Alcohol Control be re-submitted to the O+S Board in its original form with assurances that the committee will be picking up wider issues associated with alcohol abuse in its work programme. The review outline for the proposed review into Alcohol Control is attached in Appendix B.

CLLR WHITEHOUSE
Chair of the Communities
Overview and Scrutiny
Committee

Shire Hall
Warwick

18th October 2010

Communities O & S Committee - Work Programme for 2010 -11

MEETING DATE	ITEM AND RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	OBJECTIVE OF SCRUTINY	Holding e to Account	Policy Review/Development	Overview	Raising Levels of Educational Attainment	Maximising independence for older people and adults with disabilities.	Developing sustainable places and communities	Protecting the Community and making Warwickshire a safer place to live	Cross cutting themes/ LAA
3 rd Nov	Fire and Rescue Improvement Plan Gary Phillips, WFRS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise the robustness of the implementation plan developed to deliver the Fire and Rescue Improvement Plan 	✓		✓				High	
	Winter Maintenance Graeme Fitton, Head of Transport and Highways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the County Council's policy regarding winter maintenance of highways to ensure effectiveness and efficiency 		✓					High	NI 47 - People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents
	Domestic Abuse Sue Ingram, Domestic Abuse Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise the options to remodel the service and support available for domestic abuse within Warwickshire in the light of a withdrawal of government funding 		✓					High	NI 15 – Most serious violent crime rate
	Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group 							High	
	High Speed Railway (HS2), Andy Cowan, County Planner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To set the scene regarding HS2 to inform later scrutiny regarding the proposed project. 						High		
29 TH November	Rugby Western Relief Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise the project management (including the development of the contract) of the Rugby Western Relief Road and identify lessons learnt 	✓					High		

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22 nd Dec 10	Libraries Ayub Khan, Head of Libraries Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider business model and strategy for the library service going forward (Libraries Blue Print) 						Med		
	Waste (presentation), Martin Stott, Head of Environment and Resources	To consider Warwickshire's long term strategy for waste		✓				High		
	Museums Service, Mark Ryder, Head of Trading Standards, Heritage and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review proposed changes to the Museums service business model and strategy to ensure the service meets current and future challenges 		✓				High		
	Financial Well Being Mark Ryder, Head of Trading Standards, Heritage and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review progress made on the Financial Well-Being agenda and identify any gaps or areas for improvement 		✓	✓			High		
	Concessionary Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the transfer of the administration of concessionary transport to the County Council and associated risks 			✓			Med		
1 ST March 2011	Warwickshire's Safer Communities Partnership (Crime and Disorder), Kate Nash, Head of Community Safety and Localities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the effectiveness of Warwickshire's Safer Communities Partnership 	✓		✓				High	

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	High Speed Railway (HS2) (Mandy Walker)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise proposals for the High Speed Rail route in Warwickshire and provide a recommended response to Cabinet 		✓				High		
Briefing Notes										
	Flooding Martin Stott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide an update on the implementation new flooding responsibilities are being managed To provide an update on the effectiveness of recommendations following scrutiny reviews into flooding in Warwick and Bedworth 			✓			High	High	Requested for week beginning 18 th Oct
	S106 Agreements Jasbir Kaur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To outline the extent to which local authorities adopt a consistent approach to S106 agreements To provide an update on S106 outlined in report presented to Environment OSC on 19/02/09 		✓				Med		Requested for week beginning 18 th Oct
	On-street Parking Graeme Fitton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise the effectiveness of on-street parking across the County To scrutinise differences in how on street parking is managed across the County To review revenue associated with on-street parking arrangements 			✓			Med		Requested for week beginning 18 th Oct

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	Community Empowerment Nick Gower Johnson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review examples of best practice where communities are actively resolving local issues (relevant to the Committee's remit) and identify lessons learnt and key factors of success 		✓	✓			High		Requested for week beginning 18 th Oct
Items to be timetabled										
	Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise the effectiveness of the Climate Change Partnership To review the outcomes achieved by the Climate Change Partnership 	✓					Med		
	Future of local economic / enterprise partnerships (to send a briefing note in the first instance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assess implications of the discontinuation of AWM To identify an organisational and partnership strategy for the future economic / enterprise agenda in light of the discontinuation of AWM 		✓				High		
	Alcohol Implementation Plan 2010 - 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise outcomes achieved through the Alcohol Implementation Plan 2010-11 							High	

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Proposed Task and Finish Groups										
	Control of Alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise the control of alcohol across the County – focussing on licensing, underage sales 		✓					High	
	Supporting the Local Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish how the Council is working to minimise impact of the economic climate on local businesses, supporting new and established businesses, stimulating the local economy and ensuring appropriate skills base 		✓				High		

Proposed Scrutiny Review Outline

Review Topic (Name of review)	Supporting the Local Economy
Panel/Working Group etc – Members	TBA
Key Officer Contact	TBA
Relevant Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Alan Cockburn, Environment and Economy
Relevant Corporate/LAA Priorities/Targets	<p>Developing sustainable places and communities</p> <p>NI 171 - VAT registration rate</p> <p>NI 171a – VAT registration rate Nuneaton and Bedworth</p> <p>NI163 - Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher</p> <p>NI 163a –Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher (narrowing the gap between the north of the county and the rest of Warwickshire)</p> <p>NI 165 – Working age population qualified to at least Level 4 or higher</p> <p>NI 165a – Working age population to at least Level 4 or higher, narrowing the gap between South East and Warwickshire average</p>
Timing Issues	<p>It is estimated that this review would take between 6-7 months to complete (having an agreed final report ready for submission to the committee)</p> <p>Whilst regional structures associated with economic development are changing (see below), this should not necessarily delay the start of this review.</p>
Type of Review	In depth review
Resource Estimate	<p>This is potentially a complex review and the level of support required will depend on the exact methodology adopted by the review. A provisional estimate of scrutiny officer support is between 422 to 455 hours or 70-75 days depending on the actual methodology used by the review. This assumes a review planning meeting, 6 evidence sessions, evidence review meeting, meeting to develop conclusions and recommendations, between 4-5 local site visits and a best practice visit. This includes arrangements for meetings, research time, liaison and contact with witnesses and write up of evidence and the final report</p>

<p>Rationale (Key issues and/or reason for doing the review)</p>	<p>Given the current challenging economic climate and high unemployment, the local economy is a central concern for local residents and businesses. Between April 2008 and June 2010, the number of people claiming job seekers allowance in Warwickshire has increased by 72.4% (April 2008, 5,621 claimants, June 2010, 9,268 claimants).</p> <p>WCC has a key role to play in supporting the local economy by supporting existing businesses to survive, stimulating the local economy by encouraging and supporting new businesses to develop and small businesses to expand and ensuring the skills base meets the needs of local businesses. New and small businesses make a valuable contribution to the local economy, creating wealth, meetings gaps in the market and providing employment opportunities. Within the context of likely reduced public sector employment, creating employment opportunities within the private sector is crucial. Therefore, it is vitally important to ensure that WCC is proactively and innovatively providing support that meets the needs of local businesses and new emerging businesses and ensuring provision of appropriate skills and learning opportunities.</p> <p>The coalition government is changing how it provides support to the economy. RDA's and Business Link have been dissolved and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) will be introduced to drive economic development and enterprise locally. The deadline for LEP proposals was the 6th September and it is anticipated that LEP for our sub-region will be in place by April 2011. It is important to consider how WCC can best engage with the LEP in order to ensure effective support to the local economy. It will be important that the review feeds into work undertaken in relation to developing LEP.</p>
<p>Objectives of Review (Specify exactly what the review should achieve)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To scrutinise how WCC is working to minimise the impact of the current economic climate on local businesses ▪ To scrutinise how WCC is working to stimulate the local economy ▪ To establish how WCC is marketing the county as an attractive location for businesses ▪ To examine how the Council responds to market failures ▪ To examine whether existing policies, strategies and procedures provide sufficient flexibility for the Council to undertake its role as a strategic enabler of economic development ▪ To identify best practice from other local authorities taking the lead to support economic development ▪ To engage with representatives from local businesses, to establish the needs of local businesses ▪ To identify the support required by local businesses and consider how this support can be provided within the changing context surrounding economic development and the challenges surrounding public finance. ▪ To ensure that the skills agenda is meeting the needs of Warwickshire residents and local businesses ▪ To ensure that the skills agenda is joined up across the Council and partners ▪ To consider the barriers and challenges individuals face in access learning and skills course ▪ To contribute to the development of the LEP to ensure effective support to the local economy.

<p>Scope of the Topic (What is specifically to be included/excluded)</p>	<p><u>Include</u> The following is included in the scope of the review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support offered by County Council and key partners (including District and Borough Councils, Connect Midlands, Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, Business Link, Warwick University, Coventry University) ▪ Skills agenda <p><u>Exclude</u> The following falls outside the scope of the review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advice and support for individuals that are unemployed
<p>Indicators of Success – Outputs (What factors would tell you what a good review should look like?)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommendations accepted and implemented to deliver improvements
<p>Indicators of Success – Outcomes (What are the potential outcomes of the review e.g. service improvements, policy change, etc?)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognisable improvements in the support available to local businesses ▪ Recognisable improvements in the local economy ▪ Increase the overall wealth of the county and its residents ▪ Recognisable improvement in skill levels across the county
<p>Other Work Being Undertaken (What other work is currently being undertaken in relation to this topic, and any appropriate timescales and deadlines for that work)</p>	<p>The Environment and Economy Directorate are planning an internal review of the skills agenda, however timescales for this review have yet to be determined.</p> <p>Rugby BC has a review scheduled in its work programme in relation to Inward Investment, which will be scoped in February 2011 and is likely to commence in March 2011. Potentially this review could be merged with a review into 'Supporting the Local Economy' to avoid duplication and maximise effort. This would require an appetite among Rugby members to shift from a local to a county focus.</p>

Proposed Scrutiny Review Outline

Review Topic (Name of review)	Alcohol Control – Review of Licensing across the County
Panel/Working Group etc – Members	TBA – It is recommended that this is undertaken as a partnership review
Key Officer Contact	TBA
Relevant Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Richard Hobbs, Community Safety
Relevant Corporate/LAA Priorities/Targets	Protecting the community and making Warwickshire a safer place to live NI 15 Most Serious violent crime rate NI 21 Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and the police NI 120 All age all cause mortality NI 139 Alcohol related hospital admissions
Timing Issues	See section on other work being undertaken. The review will take approx 3-4 months to complete (up to having an agreed final report ready for submission to Committee).
Type of Review	In depth review
Resource Estimate	A provisional estimate of scrutiny officer support is between 240 to 264 hours or 40-44 days depending on the actual methodology used by the review. This assumes a review planning meeting, 3 evidence sessions, evidence review meeting, meeting to develop conclusions and recommendations and a best practice visit. It includes arrangements for meetings, research time, liaison and contact with witnesses and write up of evidence and the final report.
Rationale (Key issues and/or reason for doing the review)	It is widely recognised that excessive alcohol consumption can lead to number of problematic issues, including poor physical and mental health, violent crime, domestic abuse, risky behaviour and accidents, and anti-social behaviour. Nationally, in 2009/10 there were almost one million alcohol related violent crimes. A fifth of all violent incidents took place in or near a pub or club, and almost two-thirds at night or in the evening. There are 6.6 million alcohol related attendances at Accident and Emergency departments per year, costing £645 million. Additionally, 1.2 million ambulance call outs each year are in relation to alcohol related incidents, costing £372 million. Overall, alcohol related crime and disorder is estimated to cost the taxpayer between £8 billion and £13 billion per year. Licensing policies and practices are essential to ensure the effective control and regulation of alcohol, in order to reduce negative impacts on individuals, communities and public services.

<p>Objectives of Review (Specify exactly what the review should achieve)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To review the effectiveness of licensing policies and practices across the County ▪ To identify examples of best practice locally and nationally ▪ To identify opportunities for partnership working ▪ To identify how a common approach can be achieved across the county, particularly in relation to any changes resulting from current Government consultation
<p>Scope of the Topic (What is specifically to be included/excluded)</p>	<p><u>Include</u> The following is included in the scope of the review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Licensing policy and practice ▪ Licensing enforcement ▪ Public Houses and retail sales <p><u>Exclude</u> The following falls outside the scope of the review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impact of excessive alcohol consumption – health, crime and disorder etc ▪ Services and support to address to excessive alcohol consumption and its associated problems
<p>Indicators of Success – Outputs (What factors would tell you what a good review should look like?)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommendations accepted and implemented to deliver improvements
<p>Indicators of Success – Outcomes (What are the potential outcomes of the review e.g. service improvements, policy change, etc?)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognisable improvements in the control of alcohol across the County, ▪ Recognisable improvements in violent crime, anti-social behaviour and alcohol related hospital admissions.

<p>Other Work Being Undertaken (What other work is currently being undertaken in relation to this topic, and any appropriate timescales and deadlines for that work)</p>	<p><u>Nationally</u></p> <p>The Government is currently consulting around proposed changes to the current licensing framework, which seeks to give more power and flexibility to local authorities and the police to address local issues. The consultation period ends on 8th September. It would seem sensible to delay the commencement of the review until the outcome of the consultation is known, so that the review can consider how any changes can be implemented in Warwickshire.</p> <p><u>Locally</u></p> <p>Warwickshire Safer Communities Partnership (WSCP) has been discussing licensing policies and practices across the county. A sub-group of WSCP, the Drug and Alcohol Management Group (DAMG) has been tasked with exploring the current position in the County and identifying how licensing activity can be better co-ordinated across the County. The DAMG is expected to report back to WSCP in October. Again it seems sensible to delay the commencement of the review until the WSCP has considered the outcomes of DAMG work.</p> <p>Licensing is a Strategic Aim within the Warwickshire Alcohol Implementation Plan, which includes a number of actions to ensure licensing practices protect young people and effectively address irresponsible premises.</p> <p>Licensing has been suggested as a potential Scrutiny review within Nuneaton and Bedworth BC, following any changes to licensing framework following current government consultation.</p>
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