

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

<b>Name of Committee</b>	<b>Overview And Scrutiny Coordinating Group</b>
<b>Date of Committee</b>	<b>30 January 2008</b>
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Developing the 2008/09 Core Work Programme</b>
<b>Summary</b>	This report advises members on the progress made in meeting the requirements of the current core work programme and seeks views on the issues for inclusion in the Core Work Programme 2008/09.
<b>For further information please contact:</b>	Jane Pollard Overview and Scrutiny Manager Tel: 01926 412565 janepollard@warwickshire.gov.uk
<b>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?</b>	No.
<b>Background papers</b>	None

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-** Details to be specified

- Other Committees  .....
- Local Member(s)  N/A
- Other Elected Members  Councillor Grant
- Cabinet Member  .....
- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  Sarah Duxbury
- Finance  .....
- Other Chief Officers  .....
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....

Police  .....

Other Bodies/Individuals  .....

**FINAL DECISION NO**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee  By the OSCG following consultation

To Council  .....

To Cabinet  March 2008

To an O & S Committee  .....

To an Area Committee  .....

Further Consultation  Relevant Partners

## Agenda No

# Overview And Scrutiny Coordinating Group - 30 January 2008.

## Developing the 2008/09 Core Work Programme

### Report of the Strategic Director of Performance & Development

#### Recommendation

1. That the Group considers the progress made in meeting the current core work programme.
2. That the Group advises of any particular issues it would wish to see included for 2008-09.
3. That the Group agrees the arrangements for consultation.

#### Introduction

1. The Core Work Programme 2007-08 (Appendix A) was agreed by Council in May 2007. It is now an appropriate point in time to consider what progress has been made and consider the issues/elements which should be included in a core work programme for 2008-09. Appendix A sets out the progress which has been made in meeting the requirements.
2. A well-designed work programme contains a mixture of projects some of which require an overview to be kept of an area of the council's activity and others that will closely scrutinise a particular policy or area of work. The work programme needs to be fluid with topics being added be added to or removed from the work programme as priorities change. Occasionally an urgent matter may need to be added to the work programme at short notice.
3. Therefore the number of items included in a core work programme should be small to enable Committees to retain some flexibility and accommodate issues that may arise during the course of the year. It should reflect the key issues that must addressed by Overview and Scrutiny over the next financial year whatever else it does.
4. The criteria adopted by the Group for selecting topics is attached as Appendix B for reference.

## Developing the Core Work Programme 2008-09

5. The Council agreed the Corporate Business Plan 2007-10 in June 2007 this sets seven longer term aims i.e.
  - Give every child and family the best opportunities in life and raising levels of educational attainments
  - Improve community safety and reduce fear of crime
  - Promote healthy lifestyles
  - Support older people to live independently
  - Strengthen the Warwickshire economy
  - Improve and sustain our environment
  - Strengthen our communities and celebrate our heritage
6. The Council has adopted as its top 3 priorities over the years 2007-2010
  - Raising the level of Educational Attainment
  - Caring for Older People
  - Pursuing a Sustainable Environment
7. Some items within the current core work programme need to be the subject of continuing monitoring e.g.
  - Directorate Report Cards
  - Scrutiny relating to the Local Area Agreement
8. Other issues may be more appropriate for more in-depth enquiry through small panel/select committee arrangements etc. The Group is asked to comment on the issues that should form part of the core work programme for 2008/09.
9. As before it is suggested that it would be appropriate to consult more widely on the issues which should form part of any core work programme with both Cabinet members, other councillors/council and our partners. It may be helpful to consult the Public Service Board in relation to issues arising from the Local Area Agreement.
- 10.

DAVID CARTER  
Strategic Director of  
Performance & Development

Shire Hall  
Warwick

19 December 2007

## Overview and Scrutiny Core Work Programme 2007-08

Issue	Lead Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Comments (Timing or other issues)	Progress
Directorate Report Cards	All	Six monthly basis	First round of Directorate report cards showing the first 6 months performance were reported to October/November cycle of Committees. End of year performance is scheduled for the June cycle of committees. It is hoped that for 2008-09 reporting can move to a quarterly cycle.
Medium Term Financial Planning	Resources Performance & Development	After publication of Corporate Business Plan and before November 2007	Resources, Performance and Development OSC considered the Council's policy on reserves at its April 2007 meeting, and the draft Capital Strategy at its September 2007 meeting.
Joint Scrutiny relating to the Local Area Agreement, Partnerships and Localities	Joint OSC bodies	LAA to be considered after first 6 months performance figures available	There was a moratorium for the first 6 months to allow the arrangements to settle. The first 6 months performance is being reported to the January 2008 cycle of Committees.
Children's Services – preparation for JAR/CPA	Children, Young People and Families	Completion by March 2008	Children, Young People and Families OSC have a report scheduled for February 2008
Home Care Services	Adult & Community Services	Completion by March 2008	Adult & Community OSC has completed a review of Home Care and its report was published in November 2007. The recommendations are out for comment and an Action Plan is scheduled for consideration in March 2008.

Issue	Lead Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Comments (Timing or other issues)	Progress
Mental Health/Dementia Services for Older People	Adult & Community Services	Completion by March 2008	<p>Adult &amp; Community Services OSC has reviewed dementia care services for older people. The report was published in October 2007 and a proposed action plan to respond to the recommendations is scheduled for February 2008.</p> <p>Health OSC has agreed to review end of life care (including for people with dementia). This review commenced in December 2007 with a projected completion date of August 2008.</p> <p>Following up from the Health OSC Review of Mental Health Phase II – the Health OSC and Adult &amp; Community Services OSC have agreed to a joint panel to look at the outstanding issues relating to mental health provision. The exact scope and terms of reference is to be agreed but will start probably in the first half of 2008.</p>
Supporting People	Adult & Community Services	Completion by March 2008	Regular reports have been made to the Adult & Community Services Committee. Further progress reports will be made on a 6 monthly basis (next one scheduled for May 2008)

## Selecting Topics for Overview and Scrutiny

1. Whether or not any particular issue will be addressed is determined using the following criteria.
  - Does this issue have a potential impact for significant section(s) of the population?
  - Is it a matter of general public concern?
  - Is the issue to be reviewed a key deliverable of a strategic and/or partnership plan?
  - Is it a key performance area where the Council needs to improve?
  - Is there a legislative requirement to undertake the review?
  
2. Secondly to ensure that reviews add value/ make a difference consideration will be given to whether it is practicable to undertake the review by asking the following questions-
  - Are there adequate resources available to do the activity well?
  - Is the overview and scrutiny activity timely?
  - Is there a clear objective for scrutinising this topic?
  - Is there evidence to support the need for overview and scrutiny?
  - What are the likely benefits to the council and its customers?
  - Are we likely to achieve a desired outcome?
  - What are the potential risks?

## Reasons to Reject Items for Overview and Scrutiny

3. There will sometimes be very compelling reasons why an item should not be subject to overview and scrutiny. Most commonly this arises where
  - An issue is being examined elsewhere - e.g. by the cabinet, working group, officer group, other body
  - An issue was dealt with less than 2 years ago
  - New legislation or guidance is expected within the next year
  - There is no scope for overview and scrutiny to add value/ make a difference