

Agenda Item No: 4

Report to: Annual Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Date of Meeting: 19 June 2014

Report Title: **Update on 2013-14 Work Programme and Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2014-15 Municipal Year**

Report By: **Jane Hartnell**
Head of Corporate Services

Purpose of Report

To update Members on the status of reviews from the 2013/14 Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny (O & S)

To outline those ideas submitted by Members and Officers for potential O & S Reviews for 2014/15.

To highlight the O & S Chairs and Vice Chairs recommendations for reviews and prospective work programme (2014/15).

Recommendation(s)

- 1. The Annual Meeting consider the recommendations of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of O & S and agree the O & S work programme for the 2014/15 Municipal Year**

Reasons for Recommendations

It is the responsibility of Members serving on the two O & S committees, Resources and Services, to set their own work programme for each Municipal Year at the Annual Meeting of O & S, whilst taking into account the advice of officers present

Introduction

Annual Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny

1. The Chairs and Vice Chairs met on the 10th of June to make recommendations for the 2014/15 Scrutiny work programme.
2. This meeting followed shortly after the appointment of new committees on the fourth of June leaving limited time for the Chairs and Vice Chairs to draft their recommendations.
3. Discussions were informed by previous debate at the Scrutiny Steering Group (SSG) meeting on the 7th of May where part of the agenda for this meeting considered the Scrutiny committee's future work programme.
4. The Chairs and Vice Chairs are recommending that:

The Annual Meeting receive an update of progress against the reviews undertaken in 2013/14 (see appendix A).

The Annual Meeting carefully consider those ideas submitted by both Members and Officers (see appendix B) and flag up any further ideas or omissions.

The Annual Meeting give their views on those ideas prioritised by the Chairs and Vice Chairs for scrutiny reviews and the annual work programme.

The format of the meeting is the same as in previous years, where the joint committee remains together to consider the ideas submitted, then agrees the work programme.

Ideas Submitted

5. The ideas listed in Appendix B have been submitted by Members and Officers. This list of ideas includes the suggestion, the reason for the suggestion, the proposer of the idea, the source and timeframe of the idea and the potential reporting Committee (Resources or Services).
6. The Chairs and Vice Chairs recommend the following three ideas (from Appendix B) for 2014/15 scrutiny reviews:

Organisational Transformation

7. The Chairs and Vice Chairs are keen that their scrutiny colleagues better understand how the Council is managing the process of transition to lower levels of activity and the extent of and opportunities for cultural change during this transition. The review is interested in the look and feel of life at the Council in the near future and how such a vision is informing how change is being managed.

8. Such a review is keen to understand the extent to which the needs and views of residents and staff inform the change journey that is fundamentally driven by the financial challenges the Council continues to face.
9. Chairs and Vice Chairs have also recognised potential in such a review to consider opportunities for cultural change brought about by the pending renovations to Aquila House.
10. They are also suggesting that should this review be chosen, that it will be important to hone the focus of the review to ensure it can be completed within appropriate timescales.

Privatised Contracts

11. This proposed review is interested in understanding the process for out sourcing and associated performance management arrangements.
12. The Chairs and Vice Chairs are mindful that should the review be chosen that it will be necessary to consider appropriate contractual examples and welcomes the views of Directors and senior officers on these.

Access to Hastings

13. This proposed review intends to bring to the attention of Scrutiny the various initiatives currently underway, planned, and possible, to improve access to Hastings.
14. The Chairs and Vice Chairs are recommending this review as they feel it complements recent review work on 'economic partnerships' and 'Hastings as a University Town.' Understanding the various initiatives will help enable Scrutiny to develop a fuller appreciation of those factors that impact on the economic development of the town.

Regular Updates

15. The Chairs and Vice Chairs felt that a number of the ideas listed in appendix B could usefully be developed through an update in the first instance.
16. Such updates would help bring Members up to speed on specific issues and then enable them to take a more informed view on scope for further scrutiny work in a particular area.
17. Chairs and Vice Chairs based on suggestions from the Scrutiny Steering Group are keen to factor in the following updates within their quarterly meetings schedule for 2014/15:
 - (a) A one off meeting with a representative from Kier Environmental Services to explore progress made on the implementation of the joint waste contract in Hastings.
 - (b) A meeting with East Sussex County Council regarding the link road and highways maintenance issues.

(c) A meeting with appropriate health partners to address the idea submitted by Councillors Davies and Turner (see appendix B) rather than undertake a review per se.

(d) A briefing by SeaChange Sussex on work with economic partners in line with the recommendations of the 2012/13 scrutiny review on economic partnerships.

18. The Chairs and Vice Chairs advise that where possible these updates should take place within the existing meetings schedule and allow officers and partners giving the updates ample notice. They also acknowledge that some topics may require a joint meeting of both Scrutiny Committees.
19. The Chairs and Vice Chairs also expressed that the key lines of inquiry for potential updates be worked up outside of the quarterly meetings at the Scrutiny Steering Group with appropriate members and officers, in order to forward plan and ensure tightly focused associated discussions at the quarterly meetings and to minimise additional work demands on Council staff.
20. They also suggested that it is important for members to factor in capacity to review recommendations from previous reviews to help inform and tailor further scrutiny work.

Outstanding Commitments

21. Members have already made the following commitments that need to be factored into the 2014/15 work programme:
 - a) Reconvening the Hastings Castle Review Team to review the summer season in autumn 2014;
 - b) Following the Bathing Water quality scrutiny review, potentially meet late 2014 to review the bathing water samples taken over the summer season, and to monitor efforts to improve bathing water quality.

Resource Implications

22. Members are reminded that they need to consider the number of reviews undertaken in the municipal year, ensuring sufficient capacity to plan and prepare for their quarterly meetings schedule and fulfil any outstanding commitments.
23. In previous years, O & S have been asked to complete reviews and other commitments within the municipal year to ensure recommendations can be progressed and where appropriate included in work plans for the forthcoming year.

Wards Affected

Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St. Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St. Helens, Tressell, West St. Leonards, Wishing Tree

Area(s) Affected

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Yes
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	Yes
Risk Management	Yes
Environmental Issues	Yes
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	Yes
Organisational Consequences	Yes
Local People's Views	Yes

Background Information

Appendix A 2013/14 Work Programme
Appendix B Work Programme Ideas

Officer to Contact

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