

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES

20 September 2013

**IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMMES 2013/14**

1. Purpose of the Report

To inform the Scrutiny Management Committee of the ongoing and planned work of the four Improvement and Scrutiny Committees.

2. Information

The four Improvement and Scrutiny Committees have begun development of their respective work programmes for 2013/14, details of which are provided below. All of the Committees are also currently being engaged on the Five Year Financial Plan and considering which Cabinet Members will be invited to future meetings.

Health

The Health Improvement and Scrutiny Committee have established a small working group to undertake the review of care planning at admission to Hospital that was started under the previous administration. The Committee has accepted the working group's recommendation to alter the format of the review to incorporate a 'summit' meeting of all leading health and social care commissioning and provider services. This has been scheduled for Wednesday 30 October.

This Committee will also be consulted by the Council on changes to a range of Public Health services during the course of 2013 and into late 2014. There are a number of services where the Council's new Public Health function will be altering existing public health services, particularly services for residents in the Glossop area of the High Peak where the traditional focus has been on Greater Manchester based service provision rather than Derbyshire. The procurement programme will seek to redress this imbalance and bring services back into the County where possible.

People

The Committee has resolved to undertake a long-term review of the Council's approach to equality, diversity and inclusion through a series of short reviews focusing on specific aspects of the Council. The first two to start concern decision making and recruitment and selection.

The Committee has also indicated a willingness to undertake some work on how the Council, and its partners, ensure the safeguarding of children in relation to incidences of domestic violence and child sexual exploitation. A presentation on the former will be delivered at the Committee's 25 September meeting and inform the Members of areas for possible work.

Places

The Places Committee has appointed members to its two statutory working-groups, *Flooding Risk* and *Crime and Disorder*. In respect of flooding risk, effective scrutiny is a requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. This legislation, which was the outcome of the Pitt Review following severe flooding in 2007, places a statutory responsibility on County Councils to have a standing overview of how they and their partners work to prevent flooding and lessen its impact on local communities. The Places Committee has recently been briefed on its role and the work of the County Council in relation to flood prevention in Derbyshire.

The Crime and Disorder working-group is currently engaged in a staff consultation exercise to find out what help and support the Council should be providing to employees who have been, or are currently, victims of domestic violence and abuse. This was prompted following discussions between the group and the Head of Community Safety and is a response to a Department of Health initiative which exhorts large employing organisations to develop support processes for their staff. A flyer, encouraging anyone who has been subjected to domestic violence to take part in the consultation survey, is being sent out with the September payslips to all employees of the Authority.

The working-group will also be arranging to observe Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings in the near future.

Resources

The Resources Committee is undertaking a review of the Council's approach to streamlining its non-operational property holdings. The review is looking at property holdings inclusive of buildings and land types such as agricultural and woodland that are no longer used for direct service provision. The working group has so far met with the Director and Assistant Director of Property, District Council representatives and the Director of Finance. The Committee is planning to consult with all Members on possible uses of land deemed surplus to requirements.

The Committee, following a presentation from the Head of Markham Vale at its 25 July meeting, held its most recent meeting at the site for the benefit of the Committee Members who have a responsibility to scrutinise the Council's support for economic development.

3. Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, human rights, personnel, environmental, health, property and transport.

4. Background Papers

None

5. RECOMMENDATION

That the Scrutiny Management Committee notes the work programmes of the four Improvement and Scrutiny Committees.

**JOHN McELVANEY
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