

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
RESOURCES IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**20 July 2017**

**Report of the Director of Legal Services**

**WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

To inform Members of the role and remit of the Resources Improvement and Scrutiny Committee and to facilitate a discussion about potential items to be included in the Committee's 2017/18 work programme.

**2. Information**

The role of Improvement and Scrutiny, through a variety of mechanisms, is to hold the Council, Cabinet and partners to account for the decisions they take or are about to take, the services they provide as well as championing issues of local concern. This role may be undertaken by reviewing Cabinet decisions, reviewing services, reviewing and developing policies and monitoring performance.

Improvement and Scrutiny Committees operate in very much the same way as House of Commons Select Committees. Scrutiny is an open, transparent and member led process and not a process that is dominated by party political loyalties. It is not an audit process or a process which is concerned with always saving money. Primarily it is a process which drives improvements in Council services.

Cabinet Members and officers of the Council and partners can be required to provide Scrutiny Committees with information and to attend meetings to give evidence. Scrutiny has no formal powers to force the Cabinet or partners to take on board recommendations they make, they can only seek to influence and recommend their adoption. The Council and partners must however, "have regard" to any recommendations made by Scrutiny and report back to the appropriate Improvement and Scrutiny Committee giving reasons where appropriate, why recommendations have not been adopted.

Scrutiny committees develop their own annual work programmes and prioritise potential review subjects. Inevitably matters arise during the course of each year so there is flexibility to allow new issues to be added to the work programme. Chief Officers and Cabinet Members are advised of any subjects

for review falling within their remits and if necessary discussions are held to consider the proposal in more detail. The final decision as to whether to proceed with a review, however, rests with the appropriate Improvement and Scrutiny Committee.

Subject areas for scrutiny work can arise from a variety of sources including Members, Chief Officers, partner organisations, local community groups and the public. At the Committee's July meeting, Members will be invited to suggest potential review topics and discuss the aims, implications and benefits of conducting each review. To assist with this process, the service areas and issues that fall under the remit of the Resources Committee are listed in Appendix 1. At Appendix 2 there is a review proposal form which asks the following three questions:

- What are the main issues/concerns to be considered?
- What would be the key objectives of the review?
- What would be the desirable outcomes or likely benefits of the review?

Members are encouraged to consider these questions when putting forward potential topics for review.

Under the previous Chairman (Cllr Clive Moesby), the Resources Committee began a review of access to broadband in Derbyshire. Work on this review was paused during the lead up to the local elections so at the meeting of the Committee (on 20 July 2017) there will be a discussion of how to take the review forward.

### **3. Considerations**

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

### **4. Officer's Recommendation**

The Committee is requested to;

- Note the role and remit of the Resources Improvement and Scrutiny Committee.
- Identify and discuss potential issues to be included in the Committees 2017/18 work programme.
- Note that further information will be sought outside of the meeting about the suggested work programme topics and that a draft work programme will be submitted to the Committee for approval at its meeting in September 2017.

- Consider the interim report of the review of broadband access in Derbyshire and agree how to take the review forward.

**John McElvaney**  
**Director of Legal Services**

**Appendix 1**  
**Scope of Resources Committee**  
**(Arranged by Cabinet Portfolio)**

**Council Services**

- Asset Management
- Efficiency and Value for Money (Service re-design, Property rationalisation, County transport co-ordination)
- Finance and budget monitoring
- Procurement
- Human Resources
- Legal Services
- Property (Renovation and Energy Efficiency, Carbon Management, Climate Change)
- Transformation Services

**Strategic Leadership, Culture & Tourism**

- Council Strategic Policy
- Council Plan
- Budget
- Strategic budget monitoring
- Public Relations
- Policy & Research
- External Relations (East Midlands Councils, Local Government Association, Central Government & MPs)
- Local Enterprise Partnership
- DEP and LEP Liaison

**Economic Development & Regeneration**

- Local Enterprise Partnership
- Neighbouring Local Enterprise Partnerships
- External Funding
- Economic Development
- Local economic strategy and assessment
- Inward investment and indigenous growth
- Apprenticeships
- Business support and skills
- Markham Vale

**Health and Communities**

- Registration Service
- Coroner's Service

**Appendix 2**  
**Derbyshire County Council**  
**Scrutiny Review Proposal Form**

Review topic	
Proposed by (name)	
Contact details	
Date of proposal	
<b>Background information.</b> <b>(What are the main issues/concerns to be considered?)</b>	
<b>What would be the key objectives of the review?</b>	
<b>What would be the desirable outcomes or likely benefits of this review?</b>	

Please return completed form to [scrutiny@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@derbyshire.gov.uk)  
 If you have any queries regarding this form please contact the Improvement and Scrutiny Team.  
 David Rose 016295(38263), Roz savage (x39392) or Jackie Wardle (x38247)