

**ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
18 OCTOBER 2011**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12
AND PROPOSED NEW POWERS
Assistant Chief Executive**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite Members of the Environment, Culture and Communities Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Panel to note:
- its agreed work programme for O&S in 2011/12, which is attached to this report at Appendix 1 and takes account of constraints on Member and officer resources;
 - a proposed procedural change to reduce pressure on the O&S Commission by greater empowerment of the O&S Panels.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Environment, Culture and Communities O&S Panel notes:

- 2.1 **its agreed work programme for O&S in 2011/12; and**
- 2.2 **a proposed amendment to the Constitution to extend to the O&S Panels the O&S Commission's power to adopt O&S reports, the making of recommendations to the Executive, full Council and other organisations, and the consideration of responses to O&S reports.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To invite the Panel to note its Work Programme for 2011/12 and proposed new powers.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Since the Panel was consulted on its 2011/12 draft indicative work programme at its last meeting, the work programme has been agreed by the O&S Commission and is now subject to consultation with the Corporate Management Team and the Executive, in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

5.2 In order to reduce pressure on the O&S Commission and streamline the process for adopting O&S reports and considering Executive responses to them, the O&S Commission has recommended to the Governance and Audit Committee that Council be asked to approve an amendment to the Constitution to extend to the O&S Panels the Commission's power to adopt O&S reports, the making of recommendations to the Executive, full Council and other organisations, and the consideration of responses to O&S reports. This delegation is provided for in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

No advice was sought from the Borough Solicitor, the Borough Treasurer or Other Officers or sought in terms of Equalities Impact Assessment or Strategic Risk Management Issues.

7 CONSULTATION

None.

Background Papers

Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and Annual Report of O&S, 2010/11.

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Extract from the Agreed Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) in 2011/12

The agreed work programme for O&S in 2011/12 by the Environment, Culture and Communities O&S Panel is set out below. The programme is aimed at maintaining a strategic and coordinated work programme based on major areas of Council and partner organisations' activity. The selection of review topics takes account of what is of direct and significant interest to residents, and what would be timely, relevant, and likely to add value. The programme incorporates the routine, on-going work of O&S and the completion of reviews currently underway. The overall programme is smaller than in recent years owing to the reduction in officer support for O&S, arising from the financial pressures facing the Council.

The O&S Commission has consulted the O&S Panels, the Council's Corporate Management Team and the Executive on the work programme, as required by the Council's Constitution.

The work programme will necessarily be subject to continual refinement and updating. The 'future proposed reviews' are those which are unlikely to be resourced until 2012/13 or later.

ENVIRONMENT CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL	
1.	<p>Monitoring the performance of the Environment, Culture and Communities Department</p> <p>To include on-going review of the Performance Monitoring Reports; review of any inspection reports or self-evaluations; and monitoring the action taken by the Executive to earlier reports by the Panel.</p>
2.	Exercising pre-decision scrutiny by reference to the Executive Forward Plan
3.	<p>2012/13 Budget Scrutiny</p> <p>To review the Council's Environment, Culture and Communities budget proposals for 2012/13, and plans for future years.</p>
4.	<p>Monitoring significant departmental issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of the Local Development Framework • The implementation of the Supporting People Programme Action Plan on an annual basis. • Implementation of the new national structure for Housing and Council Tax benefits. <p>Note – the monitoring will be conducted at Panel meetings</p>
5.	<p>Highway Maintenance</p> <p>To complete the review of the Council's plans and performance for highway</p>

	maintenance (Working Group).
6.	<p>Commercial Sponsorship</p> <p>To complete the Member Reference Group exploring the possible procurement of a commercial sponsorship scheme.</p>
7.	<p>Site Allocations Development Plan Document</p> <p>To consider and comment on the next stages of the document prior to its approval by the Executive and Council in autumn 2011 (Working Group).</p>
8.	<p>Policy Development (the O&S input will be conducted at Panel meetings)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>Local Transport Plan</u> – To review the outcome of public consultation, and to contribute to the development of the Implementation Plan for LTP 3 involving the development of a bus strategy. b) <u>The Environmental Management of Schools</u> – To receive progress updates.