

10 : WORK PROGRAMME FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY 2001/2002

- 1 As part of the new Constitution the County Council is required to agree an annual work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Whilst the committees retain the right to alter their work programme in the light of other priorities or emerging issues, it is important that the resources used in terms of both Member and Officer time support the priorities of the Council as a whole.
- 2 With this in mind a joint meeting of the Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen in the previous Council took place to consider what should be in this programme. In the main the work of the Cabinet will be to develop and implement the policy framework approved by the County Council and to take forward the Flagship Projects already contained in the Local Performance Plan.
- 3 The table set out at Appendix A describes the suggested programme for the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees which will complement that of the Cabinet. The programme is in the main derived from the issues discussed by the previous Select Committees and also addresses priority issues that the County Council itself has identified, for example an examination of flood defences.
- 4 Clearly the new committees may have views on the priorities that should be identified but it is important in order to aid forward planning that the committees start on the basis of a prepared programme of work.
- 5 Under each committee the issue which is to be examined first has been identified by an asterisk. For each of these a clear project plan will be produced by the committee at its first meeting defining the outcome and the time scale involved. This will be published so that those that have a legitimate contribution to make can do so and will help to ensure that the whole process is open and transparent.

RECOMMENDED

That the County Council are asked to agree the programme set out at Appendix A to this report on the understanding that individual committees have the ability to vary it if other more urgent or pressing issues are subsequently identified.

**CHRIS WILLIAMS
CHIEF OFFICER OF THE COUNCIL**