

ENVIRONMENT AND LIVING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report outlines the purpose and function of the Scrutiny Work Programme and asks Members to consider items for the future Work Programme.

2 Recommendations/for decision

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the report and identify any issues that they would like to include onto the future Work Programme.

3 Executive Summary

- 3.1 This is the first meeting of the newly formed Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee. Setting the Work Programme for the Scrutiny Committees is an important element of the scrutiny process. An effective work programme will identify the key topics that scrutiny will consider over the coming year. A well planned work programme will also help both officers and members plan their workloads as well as providing a clear picture to the public of planned scrutiny activity. It is vital that scrutiny members take responsibility for both drawing up and managing their own work programme.

- 3.2 Some of the key principles for members to consider in setting the future Work Programme include:-

- (i) topics included in the Work Programme must add value to the work of the authority.
- (ii) where appropriate involve partners, stakeholders and the public.
- (iii) allow some flexibility to enable topics to be included as and when they arise.
- (iv) ensure that the Work Programme reflects the priorities of the Council as laid out in the Corporate Plan.
- (v) the Work Programme should represent the views and concerns of the community.
- (vi) the Work Programme should reflect a realistic use of resources.

- 3.3 There are many different ways to identify issues for the work programme, such as:

- (i) outcomes of public consultation (annual satisfaction surveys etc).
- (ii) suggestions from elected members (including non-executive members).
- (iii) suggestions from the Corporate Board.
- (iv) Cabinet's Forward Plan.
- (v) from Corporate Plan reporting and monitoring, and the Quarterly Finance Digests.
- (vi) issues identified through the budget setting and monitoring process.
- (vii) issues identified through the performance management role of scrutiny.

4 Scrutiny Work Programme

- 4.1 Items from the former scrutiny committees that are now within the remit of the Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee have been included on the Committee's initial Work Programme detailed as Appendix 2.
- 4.2 In response to Members' comments during the review of scrutiny arrangements, the format of the Work Programme has been changed to make it clearer who has requested agenda items, the type of scrutiny that will be taking place (i.e. holding decision-makers to account, performance management, policy review and/or development, and external scrutiny), the purpose of the review and the expected outcome(s), and relevant Cabinet Member(s) details.
- 4.3 Members of the Scrutiny Committee now have the opportunity to consider the initial Work Programme and decide whether the issues identified on it remain appropriate work programme items as well as considering any additional items for inclusion onto the future Work Programme. Members will no doubt bear in mind that the Work Programme needs to be manageable both from the Committee's perspective and resourcing work by Officers.
- 4.4 The following issues within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee are some that were examined or reported on during the past year.
- Biodiversity achievements.
 - Aylesbury Town Centre and Public Realm Guide and Urban Design Strategy.
 - Renewable Energy (wind farms).
 - Sustainable construction.
 - AVDC Green Travel Plan.
 - Carbon Management Plan / Carbon and Energy update.
 - Green Spaces Plan.
 - Community Safety Partnership updates.
 - Leisure contracts performance.
 - Reducing re-offending and supporting victims of crime.
 - Health and Well-being Strategy.
 - Aylesbury Vale Young People's Improvement Plan.
 - Review of Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust performance.
 - Update of affordable housing delivery.
- 4.5 The following information is attached to this report to further assist Members in the process of deciding which items to examine during the next four years :-
- 4.6 Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference of Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee
Appendix 2 – Initial Scrutiny Work Programme.
- 4.7 Previously Members of the former Communities Scrutiny Committee established a sub group to help develop the work programme and the scope of specific report items. The Committee may wish to consider whether or not such an approach could be beneficial within the new scrutiny arrangements.

5 Resource implications

- 5.1 Members will no doubt bear in mind that the Work Programme needs to be manageable both from the Committee's perspective and resourcing work by Officers.

6 Response to Key Aims and Objectives

- 6.1 The work of overview and scrutiny, particularly on making recommendations on matters which affect the area or its residents all support the key aims and objectives that Aylesbury Vale District Council is striving to achieve.

Contact Officer

Background Documents

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work programmes of former Scrutiny Committees

ENVIRONMENT AND LIVING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Membership

15 Councillors

Terms of Reference

The Committee will contribute towards the Council achieving the following Key Aims and Objectives:-

Key Aims:

To protect and improve the living experience in the Vale

Objectives:

To enhance our natural and built environment.

To build better communities.

To improve our towns.

To improve our communications and interaction with our customers (as it relates to the issues that fall within their remit).

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In doing this the Committee will undertake the overview and scrutiny function in relation to:

1. any crime and disorder matters including achieving the targets against the Community Safety Partnership Plan;
2. the Councils leisure functions in relation to the arts, sports and recreational activities, children's play schemes and holiday activities;
3. the implementation of policy framework plans as they relate to the remit of this Committee: Plans, schemes, statements and documents which together comprise the Vale of Aylesbury Plan, Food Law Enforcement Service Plan, Licensing Policy, Community Cohesion Strategy, Sustainable Communities Strategy, Community Safety Partnership Plan, Choice Based Lettings Policy, Cultural Strategy, Healthy Communities Strategy, Housing and Homelessness Strategy and Housing Register and Nominations Policy;
4. the Council's functions as local housing authority under the Housing Act and all other relevant legislation in force from time to time;
5. the development of partnerships with external organisations to meet housing need and regenerate unsatisfactory housing, including developers and housing associations;

6. policies and strategies of the Council and other bodies which affect the physical development of Aylesbury Vale including land use and transportation;
7. assisting in the development of the Council's planning policies (including the Vale of Aylesbury Plan and other plans for the use and development of land);
8. assisting in the development of the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy to promote the environmental well-being of Aylesbury Vale;
9. the provision, planning and management of the Council's planning services, design services, parks and open spaces and countryside management;
10. licensing functions;
11. environmental health functions;
12. flood risk and associated plans.

ENVIRONMENT AND LIVING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME

Appendix 2

Date of meeting	Item	Scrutiny Indicator *	Requested by	Purpose of Review (Responsible Officer / Member)	Expected Outcome	Relevant Cabinet Member
19/9/2012 14/11/2012	Corporate Plan: monitoring and reporting	1, 2	Officers	To monitor the success in achieving Corporate Plan objectives and actions (Tamsin Ireland)	To monitor Delivery Plans and activities, & make recommendations, as appropriate	varies, according to the Delivery Plan
19/9/2012	Bucks Tenancy Strategy	4	Officers	To allow scrutiny to contribute to the development of the strategy (Will Rysdale)	The Localism Act 2011 requires all local authorities to publish a tenancy strategy by January 2013.	Cabinet Member for Community Matters
19/9/2012	Corporate Plan objective: Buildings at Risk and Conservation Areas	1, 2	Committee	To monitor the success in achieving Corporate Plan objectives and actions (Paul Acton)	To monitor Delivery Plans and activities, & make recommendations, as appropriate	Cabinet Member for Planned Development, Design and Conservation
19/9/2012	Draft Budget for 2013/14	1	Committee, Cabinet	To look at 2013/14 budget proposals within the Committee's remit (Andrew Small)	To make recommendations to Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Resources and relevant Cabinet Members
3/10/2012	Vale of Aylesbury Plan (submission document) (Martin Dalby)	4	Committee, Cabinet	To allow scrutiny to comment on the submission document (Martin Dalby)	The submission document will be submitted to full Council on 17/10/2012	Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning

* Scrutiny Indicator Key

1: Holding to account	2: Performance management	3: Policy review	4: Policy development	5: External scrutiny
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Date of meeting	Item	Scrutiny Indicator *	Requested by	Purpose of Review (Responsible Officer / Member)	Expected Outcome	Relevant Cabinet Member
14/11/2012	Carbon and Energy update	2	Committee		To review the work of the Council's biodiversity team & make recommendations as appropriate	Cabinet Member for Environment and Health
14/11/2012	Corporate Plan objective: Encourage greater community ownership and involvement in our local environment	1, 2	Committee	To monitor the success in achieving Corporate Plan objectives and actions (Lesley Davies)	To monitor Delivery Plans and activities, & make recommendations, as appropriate	Cabinet Member for Leisure
14/11/2012	Corporate Plan objective: Actively manage and protect AVDC land	1, 2	Committee	To monitor the success in achieving Corporate Plan objectives and actions (Lesley Davies)	To monitor Delivery Plans and activities, & make recommendations, as appropriate	Cabinet Members for Leisure and for Civic Amenities
14/11/2012	Corporate Plan objective: Tackling littering and graffiti	1, 2	Committee	To monitor the success in achieving Corporate Plan objectives and actions (Gareth Bird)	To monitor Delivery Plans and activities, & make recommendations, as appropriate	Cabinet Member for Civic Amenities
12/12/2012	Draft Budget for 2013/14	1	Committee, Cabinet	To look at 2013/14 budget proposals within the Committee's remit (Andrew Small)	To make recommendations to Cabinet	Cabinet Member for Resources and relevant Cabinet Members
13/2/2013	No items as yet					
26/3/2013	No items as yet					

* Scrutiny Indicator Key

1: Holding to account	2: Performance management	3: Policy review	4: Policy development	5: External scrutiny
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