
Meeting: Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date: 18 January 2011
Subject: Work Programme 2010-2011
Report of: Gary Alderson, Director of Sustainable Communities
Summary: The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.

Contact Officer: Jon Partridge (0300 300 4634)
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The work programme of the Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee should contribute to all 5 Council priorities, and will specifically support those 2 directly related to the work of the Sustainable Communities directorate, being managing growth effectively and creating safer communities.

Financial:

n/a

Legal:

n/a

Risk Management:

n/a

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

n/a

Equalities/Human Rights:

n/a

Community Development/Safety:

n/a

Sustainability:

n/a

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee:
 - (a) considers and approves the attached work programme, subject to any further amendments it may wish to make;
 - (b) considers the Executive Forward Plan; and
 - (c) considers whether it wishes to add any further items to the work programme and/or establish any Task Forces to assist it in reviewing specific items.

Work Programme

1. The work programme is kept regularly under review by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and officers and is amended as appropriate, which also includes adding further items during the course of the year if Members so wish and capacity exists. The current agreed work programme is attached at **Appendix A**.
2. Also attached at **Appendix B** is the latest version of the Executive's Forward Plan (covering the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011) so that Overview & Scrutiny Members are fully aware of the key issues Executive Members will be taking decisions upon in the coming months. Those items relating specifically to this Committee's terms of reference are shaded in light grey.

Task Forces

3. In addition to consideration of the work programme, Members will also need to consider how each item will be reviewed i.e. by the Committee itself (over one or a number of Committee meetings) or by establishing a Member Task Force to review an item in greater depth and report back its findings.

Arising from the previous Council year the Committee currently has the following Task Forces and Advisory Groups within its remit:-

4. Development Strategy Task Force

The Development Strategy Task Force has met regularly since September 2009 to consider items including the Design Guide for Central Bedfordshire, site allocations for housing and employment, gypsy and traveller sites and Local Transport Plan 3. An indicative work programme for the Task Force for 2010 - 2011 is attached at **Appendix C**.

5. Cultural Strategy Task Force

As a result of the Senior Management Review the Cultural Strategy Task Force is now covered in the remit of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and it is this Committee that will receive a final report.

Following a meeting between the Director of Sustainable Communities, the

Assistant Director for Leisure and Culture, the Portfolio Holder, the Chairman of the Task Force, the Chairman of the Children, Families and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee it was agreed that the next scheduled meetings of the Task Force be suspended pending the completion of the Senior Management Review.

6. Member Advisory Group

The Committee has also established a Member Advisory Group for the purpose of consultation on the proposed programme of highway works and local improvement schemes (**Minute SCOSC/10/33 refers**) composed by Councillors Bastable, Gale, Jamieson, Kane, Maudlin, Williams and Young.

Conclusion

7. The Committee is requested to consider the attached work programme and make any further amendments it considers necessary. Members are also requested to consider highlighting those items within the work programme where they wish to establish a Task Force to assist the Committee in its work.

Appendices:

- Appendix A:** Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2010 – 11
- Appendix B:** The Executive Forward Plan for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011
- Appendix C:** Development Strategy Task Force Work Programme 2010 – 11