
Meeting: Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date: 21 June 2011
Subject: Draft Work Programme 2011-2012
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;
 - (c) re-establish the Development Strategy Task Force and approve the terms of reference and communications protocol as set out in appendix D;
 - (d) establish a Highways and Transportation Task Force to review roads and footways maintenance and the managing agent contract (MAC) with Amey LG and the developing approach to car parking as set out in paragraphs 7 – 9;
 - (e) establish a Task Force to review leisure facilities in Central Bedfordshire following the conclusion of the Task Force review detailed in recommendation (d) above;
 - (f) delegate authority to the Chairman of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee to agree recommendations of the Task Forces on behalf of the Committee so that they can be submitted directly to Executive or Executive Member(s) as appropriate except when they are considered to be controversial in which circumstances they will be presented to the full Committee;
 - (g) note that subject to recommendations (c) – (e) the Cultural Strategy Task Force and the Member Advisory Group on Highways will cease to operate.

Work Programme

1. The work programme is kept regularly under review by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman 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 draft work programme is attached at **Appendix A**.
2. Also attached at **Appendix B** is the latest version of the Executive's Forward Plan (1 June 2011 to 31 May 2012) 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 grey.

Task Forces

3. The Committee is permitted to establish Member Task Forces to review items in greater depth and report back its findings. Arising from the previous Council year the Committee currently has the Development Strategy Task Force, which it is proposed by the Chairman continue.

Development Strategy Task Force

4. The Development Strategy Task Force has met regularly since September 2009 to consider items relating to the Local Development Framework for Central Bedfordshire. These items include site allocations for housing and employment, gypsy and traveller site allocations and Local Transport Plan 3. An indicative list of the items proposed to be considered by the Task Force during 2011-2012 is attached at **Appendix C**. Meetings of the Task Force will be arranged as necessary and all Members of the Council will be notified of the dates in advance.
5. Throughout 2009–2011 meetings of the Development Strategy Task Force were not normally held in public. The Chairman of the Task Force has the discretion to ask people to attend to give evidence on issues at meetings where they consider this might be helpful. Where appropriate the Chairman of a relevant Town or Parish Council has usually been invited to attend the meeting to provide evidence on behalf of residents within their area. It is proposed that meetings continue to be held in private unless it is considered appropriate for them to be public. The terms of reference and communications protocol that are proposed to be adopted for this Task Force are at **Appendix D**.
6. In addition to the Development Strategy Task Force is it proposed that there are two further Task Forces established by the Committee:-

Highways and Transportation Task Force

7. The Chairman has proposed that a Task Force be established that enables Members to consider the agreed managing agent contract with Amey LG and raise their concerns. The Task Force will provide an opportunity to understand Members concerns and seek to identify ways that some flexible practices could be adapted so that they are suitable for Central Bedfordshire Council.
8. It is also proposed that the Task Force consider the Council's draft approach to road and footway maintenance and the Council's draft approach to parking.
9. It is proposed that the first meeting of this Task Force take place before the end of June 2011 and that it complete its work within 2 months.

Review of leisure facilities in Central Bedfordshire

10. The Chairman has also proposed that a Task Force be established to review leisure facilities in Central Bedfordshire. The terms of reference for this review would be considered by the Chairman and the Task Force Members prior to the first meeting. This review will focus only on leisure facilities provided by Central Bedfordshire Council in Central Bedfordshire.
11. It is proposed that the review of leisure facilities commence in September/October 2011 following the completion of the Task Force review of roads and footway maintenance and the MAC with Amey LG. It is proposed that

this review be completed within a period of 3 months.

12. Due to the Committee establishing two time-limited Task Forces in addition to the ongoing Development Strategy Task Force it is proposed that these be the only further Task Forces established by the Committee until these have produced their final reports. These Task Forces replace the Member Advisory Group on Highways, which is the subject of a further report on the agenda, and the Cultural Strategy Task Force both of which are proposed to cease operation.
13. Throughout 2009–2011 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) has approved delegated powers to the Chairman of the Committee to report recommendations directly to the Executive or the Executive Member(s) except in circumstances where these recommendations are considered to be controversial. In order to minimise the duplication that may result from the committee considering recommendations of the Task Force it is proposed that this practice continue. The recommendations would also be circulated to all Members of the Sustainable Communities OSC for information.
14. All non–Executive Members would be invited to express an interest in being on these Task Forces and all Members would subsequently be notified of the meeting(s) so that they could attend if they wish.

Conclusion

11. The Committee is requested to consider the attached work programme and make any further amendments it considers necessary. Members are also requested to consider establishing the proposed Task Forces as set out in the report.

Appendices:

- Appendix A:** Proposed Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2011 – 12
- Appendix B:** The Executive Forward Plan for the period 1 June 2011 to 31 May 2012
- Appendix C:** Development Strategy Task Force Work Programme 2010 – 11
- Appendix D:** Proposed terms of reference and communications protocol for the Development Strategy Task Force