

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 (Regeneration, Partnerships, Community Engagement & Safety) 19 April 2010

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 (Housing and Environment) 18 May 2010

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 (Improvement, Performance and Finance) 13 May 2010

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2010/2011

1 Background

- 1.1 Following the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programming Workshop that was held on 11 March 2010 where Councillors present at the workshop, had in Groups, supported by a Director and a Head of Service, put forward suggested issues for inclusion on next year's Overview and Scrutiny work programme. Cabinet Members also sat with the Groups to provide points of clarity, as requested, on their priorities and objectives for 2010/11.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Improvement Plan details the need to involve the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holders in Overview and Scrutiny Work Programming. Therefore, Cabinet Members were invited to attend the event to inform of their priorities and objectives for the year. The Leader of the Council provided a precis of Cabinet's priorities and objectives and along with other Portfolio Holders present, provided further information as required to the workshop on these issues.
- 1.3 It is important that the Council works with Scrutiny and vice versa. Overview and Scrutiny can also suggest its own issues for Review.
- 1.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee noted the success of the Workshop emphasising that a similar event should be held

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annually. The background information provided had been very comprehensive but shorter summaries would have been useful.

- 1.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, at its meeting on 29 March 2010, considered the issues suggested for inclusion and agreed that the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2010/2011 be ratified by the new Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its first meeting in June 2010.

2 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2010/2011

- 2.1 In considering the issues suggested for the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2010/2011, Directors and Heads of Service provided expert advice as required.
- 2.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee concluded that the following Issues and Reviews be included in the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2010/2011:

- **Leisure Strategic Business Review** - To review the proposal to form a new Charitable Trust for the provision of Leisure and Sports Development Services.

This Review could follow the format of an Appreciative Inquiry. Further details regarding this issue will be supplied to Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 at its meeting on 19 April 2010.

- **Pre-decision Scrutiny: Procurement (Market Testing) of Environmental Services** - To continue with the pre-decision Scrutiny work that Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 (Improvement, Performance and Finance) has commenced.
- **Neighbourhood Model** - To investigate which groups will be engaged with and who the Council will be working with.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 will receive a briefing on this issue at its meeting on 19 April 2010.

- **Northamptonshire Alcohol Strategy** - To review the local delivery of Northamptonshire Alcohol Strategy in Northampton.

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- **Independent Living Strategies** - To review the Council's Independent Living Strategies making any recommendations for improvement as appropriate.

It is suggested that this Review be joint with NCC or a Member and Officer from NCC be co-opted onto the Panel for the life of this Review.

- **Proposals for Cliftonville House** - To investigate the proposals for Cliftonville House, in particular the relocation of staff and the disposal of the site.

It was suggested that Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3, at its meeting on 13 May 2010, will consider the issue of staff relocating from Cliftonville House.

- **Commissioning Framework for the Third Sector** - To investigate the development of a Commissioning Framework for the Third Sector.

Following advice, the Overview and Scrutiny Management agreed that this Review should not commence prior to appointment of the Officer responsible for Commissioning the Framework.

2.3 The following suggested Reviews were deferred for consideration at a later date. Dependant upon the receipt of additional information and sufficient timescale, these Reviews could be added to next year's Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme:-

- **Choice Based Lettings (CBL)** - To review the CBL system since its implementation, making any recommendations for improvement as appropriate.

It is anticipated that further information regarding CBL will be available from the summer 2010. It was agreed that there was a need to await the report to Cabinet (June 2010) on CBL to ascertain whether there were any outstanding issues.

- **New Tenancy Agreement** - To review the success of the new Tenancy Agreement, making any recommendations for improvement as appropriate.

The new Tenancy Agreement was agreed by Cabinet early in 2010. It was therefore suggested that this issue be deferred until the autumn 2010 and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives a progress report. The Committee would then decide whether it felt the new Agreement was operating successfully and whether there was a need for further scrutiny work.

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- **Absent Management** – The purpose of the Review was suggested: -
 - To evaluate the impact that staff absence has upon service delivery
 - To review how health and well being policies can have a positive impact in reducing sickness absence
 - To ensure absence management systems are robust

It would be decided later in the year whether this Review should be included onto the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2010/2011.

3 Conclusions

- 3.1 That, when finalised by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, the draft Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2010/2011 be circulated to all non-Executive Councillors.
- 3.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee recommends that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its first meeting of the new Municipal Year, formally agree the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2010/2011.
- 3.3 Following formal agreement of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2010/2011, it would be widely distributed, both internally and externally, and published on the Overview and Scrutiny WebPages.

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