

North Yorkshire County Council

Corporate and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

10 September 2012

Work Programme

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To invite the Committee to consider the work programme.

2 Scope of the Committee

- 2.1 Under the Council's constitution the scope of this Committee is defined as:

“the Council's corporate organisation and structure, resource allocation, asset management, procurement policy, people strategy, equality and diversity, performance management, communications and access to services.

Partnership working, community development, community engagement, community strategies and community safety (the designated Crime and Disorder Committee)”.

3 Scheduled Committee Dates

- 3.1 Forthcoming Committee dates for 2012 and 2013 are:
- 26 November 2012, 10:30am
 - 21 January 2013, 10:30am
 - 22 April 2013, 10:30am

4 Updates

4.1 One Council

- 4.1.1 The One Council Members Task Group met with the Chief Executive in July to get his insight into how the One Council programme is progressing and the areas that he believes the organisation needs to focus upon in the life of this Council and beyond. It was noted that if initial reports of the anticipated budget settlements for councils under the next CSR are anything to go by, the required level of savings will go far beyond the savings being realised by the One Council programme and other service changes to date. Difficult decisions will need to be made soon into the life of the next Council about which services the County Council will no longer continue to provide. To help inform this process the group suggested that Members in the current administration could do some 'blueskythinking' about what services the Council should deliver after 2014/15. The Chief Executive and the Leader are looking at taking this forward.

4.1.2 The task group met again in August to scrutinise the first of the monthly highlight reports, including the risk register. The group suggested that a list of mitigating actions to be undertaken against each of the risks should be included in future versions of the risk register. The updated risk register will be presented to the group later this year.

4.1.3 The task group will be meeting after today's Committee meeting to receive a progress report on the Customer Access Workstream and an update on the Behaviour & Skills Framework and 'The Role of the Manager' under the Management and Supervision workstream.

4.2 Community Right to Challenge

4.2.1 The community right to challenge (CRC) was introduced by the Localism Act 2011. Charity, voluntary/community groups, parish councils and groups of County Council employees have the right to submit an expression of interest (EOI) in running specified County Council services, where they believe that they can do so differently and better. The CRC applies to all county council services (except personalised budgets), although there are some temporary exceptions where services are in specified ways linked to NHS services. There are limited grounds for rejection of an EOI.

4.2.2 Groupspokespersons were circulated the draft Executive report on the County Council's proposed approach to the CRC. Subsequently the recommendations in the report were approved by the Executive in July, subject to a reduction in the length of time that people will be able to submit an expression of interest each year from eight to six weeks (18th February to 31st March, commencing 2013).

4.2.3 The County Council has produced a webpage outlining its approach for inviting and considering expressions of interest www.northyorks.gov.uk/crc.

5 Emerging areas of work

5.1 Localisation of Council Tax Benefit

5.1.1 From next year local government will take on the responsibility for the council tax benefit system, along with a 10% reduction in government grant on the current council tax benefit bill.

5.1.2 Billing authorities (district councils in two tier areas) will be required to develop localised schemes, deciding the extent to which they will pass the 10% cut on to benefit claimants. The local schemes, however, will need to take account of the Government's intention for some 'vulnerable' groups to have their benefits protected.

5.1.3 In North Yorkshire the district councils will be required to consult the major precepting authorities (the County Council, the Fire & Rescue Authority and the Police & Crime Commissioner) on the design of local schemes and how the funding reduction is to be managed.

- 5.1.4 A report on the localisation of Council Tax Benefit in North Yorkshire will be brought to the Committee's November meeting.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That Members review the Committee's work programme, taking into account issues highlighted in this report, the outcome of discussions on previous agenda items and any other relevant developments taking place in the county.

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Background documents: None

Annexes: Work Programme Schedule 2012

Corporate & Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme Schedule 2012/13

In-depth Scrutiny Projects

SUBJECT	AIMS/TERMS OF REFERENCE	ACTION/BY WHOM	TIMESCALES
One Council	<p>To discuss the One Council Vision/programme and reporting schedules.</p> <p>A Task Group has been appointed and met on 19 October 2011, 16 November 2011, 8 February, 5 March, 2 May 2012, 27 June and 8 August.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on 10 September on the rising of the Committee meeting.</p>	Rob Polkinghorne	Regular progress updates
Alcohol Misuse Review	<p>To review the arrangements in the county for tackling the effects of alcohol misuse, including preventative services against a backdrop of changed structural arrangements within the National Health Service.</p> <p>To date work has progressed on an alcohol needs assessment with a view to developing a high level alcohol harm reduction strategy to give direction and focus on future commissioning intentions.</p>	Joint task group with Care and independence Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Further dates to be arranged following the North Yorkshire Wider Partnership Conference on 18 October 2012 at which there will be workshop on alcohol-related harm.

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Overview Reports

SUBJECT	AIMS/TERMS OF REFERENCE	ACTION/BY WHOM	TIMESCALES
Executive Member's update	To highlight some of the recent issues considered by the Executive and to identify relevant key issues and priorities for the coming months: schedule alternately.	Cllr Carl Les	26 November 2012/ 22 April 2013
Libraries	Overview and update on the library service, including community managed libraries.	Julie Blaisdale	26 November 2012 and 22 April 2013
	Overview of archives, registration and coroners administration.	Julie Blaisdale	To be determined
Future Performance Monitoring Arrangements	To receive an update on the implementation of the Council's revised Corporate Performance Management Framework.	Gary Fielding	26 November 2012
Scrutiny and the Budget Process	To examine the Year 3 and 4 budget savings relating to Finance & Central Services (Strategic Resources).	Gary Fielding	26 November 2012
Localisation of Council Tax Benefit	Overview of the localisation of Council Tax Benefit and update on local government funding in relation to business rates.	Gary Fielding	26 November 2012
Council Plan	To look at the achievements of the past year in relation to the current Council Plan and make suggestions for future improvements to be included in the 2013/16 Council Plan.	Neil Irving	26 November 2012
	Comment on the draft 2013/16 Council Plan.		21 January 2013 (provisional)
NYSP Community Safety Agreement	To review the Community Safety Agreement annually as part of the Committee's Crime and Disorder overview & scrutiny remit.	Neil Irving / Nigel Hutchinson, Chair Safer Communities Forum	21 January 2013
Enhanced two tier working	Update on two-tier working.	Gary Fielding	21 January or 22 April 2013

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Leader of organisations attend to explain commitment/contribution to Community Safety/Safer Communities Forum	Key feature of Designated Crime and Disorder committee - attendance of strategic leaders at forthcoming meetings.	Jonathan Spencer	To be determined
Communications Strategy	Update on resident communications and other communications initiatives.	Helen Edwards	To be determined

<i>Scheduled Committee Meetings</i>	26 November 2012 10:30 am	21 January 2013 10.30am	22 April 2013 10.30am
<i>Scheduled Agenda Briefing</i>	26 November 2012 9:30 am	21 January 2013 9:30 am	22 April 2013 9:30 am
<i>Scheduled Mid Cycle</i>	23 October 2012 10.30am	21 December 2012 10:30am	18 March 2013 10:30am