

scrutiny

focus on performance

REPORT OF: Principal Scrutiny Officer

REPORT TO: Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

ON: 5th March 2014.

RE: Committee work programme.

1. Purpose of the Report

For Members of the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Committee to note the progress made with the Committees 2013/14 work programme throughout the year.

2. Background

An outline work programme for the Committee was agreed in principle at the first meeting on 19th June 2013 with a more detailed work programme being agreed by Committee on 17th July. The last update report being given to the Committee at its 29th January meeting.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the Committees work programme for 2013/14 be noted.

3.2 That the suggested outcomes for the work programme be agreed.

4. Update to the work Programme

Shisha

A task Group was formed and a meeting took place in February 2014. Notes of this Task Group will be circulated to Members separately.

Scrap Metal

The Committee held a Task Group that monitored the progress on tackling scrap metal theft in the Borough. Notes of this Task Group will be circulated to Members separately.

Waste Procurement

Members will be kept informed on the Council's progress on Waste Procurement, an update for Members has been requested for the Committee's March meeting.

In conclusion:

As a discussion item at the 5th March meeting the Committee will be asked to consider the following questions. What has worked during the year? What could be improved for next year? And to use a successful model of "you said, we did, so what?" by means of challenge. The responses and outcomes of these discussions will form an outline for the Annual review of Scrutiny on the 7th April 2014.

As the resources for local authorities continue to diminish it becomes increasingly necessary to focus on the "so what?" element of everything we do. This year there have been six full committee meetings and a series of working group meetings outside of Committee. Below short review from the work programme Committee by Committee:

19TH June 2013

Members received presentation from all four Executive Members on their portfolios top 5 priorities and risk and areas that Scrutiny Could assists the Executive

17th July 2013

Members along with the Policy and Corporate Resources Committee undertook a two part review of the advice services, which included a site visit of the new service. The second part will take place on the 26th March 2014 and again will include a site visit. The Committee also started its work on a empty Homes.

18th September 2013

Members held a detailed review of portfolios corporate budget positions and conducted site visits in Darwen and Blackburn to look at empty homes.

20th November 2013

The Committee completed its review on Empty Homes and agreed recommendations to be submitted to the Executive Member at its January meeting.

Members received a detailed presentation from the Environment portfolio on Shisha Bars outlining the risks and challenges they pose. This being the Committee's next scrutiny topic and a Task Group was formed.

20th January 2014

At the January meeting of the Committee, Members received an update on the 20mph zone trial and an update from the Executive Member for Regeneration on Blackburn Town Centre

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