

Cheltenham Borough Council
Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee
3rd July 2003
Committee Workplan
Report of the Group Director Social and Community

1. Summary and recommendation

- 1.1 The existing workplan approved by the Council in July 2002 and revised in December 2002, contains two major pieces of outstanding work for this committee, requested by the cabinet deputy (neighbourhood and community).
- 1.2 In the light of staffing and workload difficulties (arising from the production of the housing strategy and homelessness strategy, and the part-time secondment of two key members of staff to work on the Comprehensive Performance Assessment project team), I have recently met with the cabinet deputy, together with the chair of this committee to agree realistic revised timetables and scopes.
- 1.3 At the April meeting of this committee, the deputy asked this committee to undertake a review of services for older people. The deputy has agreed that this review should focus specifically on the impact which the Supporting People regime has had on older people, rather than the potentially enormous task of reviewing all services, including those provided by other agencies.

I, therefore, propose to bring an initial report to the September meeting of the committee and I will invite the lead County Council officer to make a presentation as part of that report.

- 1.4 At the cabinet meeting on 2nd April, the deputy announced that he intended to ask the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee to “review the steps that the council is taking to ensure that the alleviation of social exclusion is at the heart of everything the council does”.

The cabinet deputy and chair of this committee recognise that to undertake this review effectively will require the dedication of significant officer resources, involving other agencies and service-users, over a significant period of time. They have agreed that a more realistic timescale for completion of such a review is May/June 2004.

- 1.5 The council’s draft workplan for 2003-2004/05 will be developed from a review of the existing workplan at a planning meeting in the next month, involving the cabinet, chairs of Overview and Scrutiny committees, group leaders and board of directors. The changes detailed in this report will be fed in to the planning meeting.

- 1.6 I therefore recommend that members note the revised timetable and scope of the reviews requested by the cabinet deputy.**

2. Implications

- 2.1 **Financial :** an alternative approach would be to commission external consultants to undertake the work but no budget exists.
- 2.2 **Legal :** none arising from this report.
- 2.3 **Personnel :** the council's responsibilities to its staff include a requirement to ensure that workloads are managed in such a way that employees' health and safety is not endangered.
- 2.4 **Equal opportunities, social justice and anti-poverty :** both reviews will inform the council's approach to equalities.
- 2.5 **Environmental :** none arising from this report.

Background Papers Minutes of cabinet meetings 1st April, 2003, and 22nd April, 2003.

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