

Cheltenham Borough Council
Social & Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee
12 January 2004
Social & Community Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme
2004 - 2007
Report of the Group Director (Social & Community)

1. Summary and recommendation

This report draws out the implications of the Council Work Programme report presented to full Council on 1st December, as it relates to the Social and Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee up to 2004-2007.

- 1.1 I therefore recommend that Members approve the work programme for Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Appendix 1 attached to this report.**

2. The Work Plan

- 2.1 Following the away day held on 13 October, a council work plan was prepared which was considered by Council on 1st December 2003. The plan summarises the key work areas for the council over the next three years and demonstrates how the council will deliver its seven priorities. Each of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee actions were identified in the plan, and the work that needs to be undertaken to deliver that action has been identified, along with the timescale, who will be responsible for the work and who will provide the advice.
- 2.2 The work plan reflects the legitimate role that overview and scrutiny committees can play in the development of policies and strategies whilst recognising the clear responsibility and accountability of the cabinet in the decision-making process. It is also recognised that the work plan will need to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate any new and unforeseen issues which arise, but by having a clearly defined programme it will allow the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to consider its priorities and allocate its resources in terms of officer and member time accordingly.
- 2.3 For ease of reference **Appendix 1** outlines the proposed Work Programme for this Committee.
- 2.4 Members will recall that the committee has the following working groups; Funding of external bodies, Night Time Economy Community Group and Arts Development Strategy. The Committee will wish to consider whether these groups could be widened and used to tackle any of the other items on the work plan, or whether new groups need be identified where relevant.

- 2.5 There was an item included on the Council work plan identified for the Economic and Business Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee concerning encouraging citizenship and voter turn out, this is currently being progressed by the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee and has therefore been included in the attached work plan.

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Financial** Financial issues will be addressed through individual work areas on the work programme
- 3.2 **Legal** The work programme will help to inform the forward plan which the Leader has a statutory obligation to publish on a monthly basis
- 3.3 **Personnel** The work programme will help officers to plan workloads
- 3.4 **Equal opportunities, social justice and anti-poverty** Specific equal opportunity issues will be addressed through individual work areas on the work programme
- 3.5 **Environmental** Environmental issues will be addressed through individual work areas on the work programme

Background papers

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Accountability Council

Scrutiny Function Social and Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee