

Cheltenham Borough Council
Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee
– 11th September 2006
Committee Work Plan 2006-2007
Report of the Strategic Director Social and Community

1. Executive Summary and recommendation

1.1 The issue

1.1.1 The committee needs to agree a work plan for 2006-07 which reflects the council's agreed business plan priorities, whilst leaving sufficient headroom to respond to urgent issues through the year.

1.1.2 A frequent criticism of Overview and Scrutiny Committees has stemmed from the temptation to tackle too many issues, inevitably in too little depth to satisfy any real purpose, and much of the best work has been undertaken in dedicated smaller working groups.

1.1.3 At the meeting of the Committee held on 10th July 2006, Members considered an extract of the 'Our Actions 2006-07' document approved by Council on 27th March which detailed the actions relevant to the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members were asked to complete scrutiny topic forms for items they wished to be included in the Committee work plan for 2006/07, for consideration at the next meeting.

1.1.4 Three scrutiny topic forms have been received and are enclosed at Appendix A for consideration. It should be noted that scrutiny topic forms can be completed at any stage during the year for possible inclusion in the work plan.

1.1.5 There are a number of items that have been carried forward from 2005/06 in respect of ongoing work and these have been set out in the work plan attached at Appendix B.

1.1.6 Members need to be aware of the limited resources at their and officers' disposal and prioritise their activities accordingly.

1.2 I therefore recommend that the committee considers the scrutiny topics proposed and agrees a work plan for 2006-07 based on the Council's agreed business plan.

1.3 Summary of Implications

1.3.1 Financial The committee has no financial resources to support its programme of activity.

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- 1.3.2 Legal** None arising from this report.
- 1.3.3 Human Resources** Officer support for the committee comes primarily from Democratic Services and the officers of the Social and Community Group.
- 1.4 Implications on corporate and community plan priorities**
- 1.4.1 It is vital that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work plans are linked to the council's business plan and help to deliver the corporate objectives.
- 1.5 Statement on risk**
- 1.5.1 There is no direct impact on the corporate risk register.

Background papers	Our Actions 2006-07. Report to Council 27 th March, 2006.
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Accountability	Deputy Internal Performance and Service Development
Scrutiny function	Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee