

Information Paper

Economy and Business Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee

23 May 2011

Work Planning 2011-2012 and Effectiveness of Scrutiny

Background

- 1.1** The Economy and Business Improvement Overview & Scrutiny Committee maintain a workplan for the coming year and this is a regular item at the end of the agenda for every meeting. It is open to all members of the committee to comment or suggest topics for the workplan.
- 1.2** The Chair and Vice-Chair of the committee met on 4 May 2011 with the Lead Officer and Democratic Services Manager for the regular Chair's briefing. At this meeting they reviewed the latest version of the Cabinet Forward Plan for May to August 2011, attached as Appendix 1. This plan identifies the appropriate scrutiny committee for every decision going to Cabinet and it is then up to each committee to decide whether they want to scrutinise that topic or have any more information at any point. As a result of the discussions a number of items were proposed for adding to the workplan for this committee which is attached as Appendix 2.
- 1.3** Members are reminded that this scrutiny committee has a role in adding value in assisting the delivery of the outcomes outlined in the Corporate Strategy 2010-2015 under the following objectives and outcomes:
 - Cheltenham is able to recover quickly and strongly from the recession
 - We attract more visitors and investors to Cheltenham
 - the Council delivers improved outcomes for customers and communities whilst meeting "Bridging the Gap" targets for cashable savings and increased income
- 1.4** Members of the committee may wish to propose specific topics for the workplan arising from these objectives.
- 1.5** Finally as the overarching committee, EBI also has some specific responsibilities for scrutinising the major change programmes currently operating in the Council and in particular the Commissioning Strategy. Members may want to satisfy themselves that this aspect of their role is covered sufficiently in the workplan for the coming year.
- 1.6** Committee working groups already established, as well as Cabinet Member working groups within the remit of the Committee are listed in Appendix 3, for information.

Effectiveness of scrutiny

- 1.7 Whilst considering the workplan, it would also be helpful to have the feedback from members of the committee on how they view the effectiveness of their scrutiny work during the past year and are there any improvements they would like to see.

Some questions they may like to consider are:

1. Do they feel they have had the right topics on the agenda?
2. Has the committee been in an effective position to scrutinise the Cabinet?
3. Has information being presented to scrutiny in the right form, and does it enable the right level of discussion?
4. Have working groups been successful?
5. Are there any improvements they would like to see for the coming year?

Next Steps

1.8 **Members are therefore asked to :**

- examine the proposed scrutiny topics and agree on which ones to take forward and where necessary appoint members to a working group where one does not already exist
- suggest further topics for investigation
- offer their comments on the general operation of the scrutiny process relating to this committee
- approve the draft Economy and Business Improvement Overview and Scrutiny work plan 2011-2012

Appendices	1. Cabinet Work Programme May to September 2011 2. Draft work plan 2011-2012 3. List of existing Committee and Cabinet Member working groups
Background Papers	2010-2015 Corporate Strategy
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