

**Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2014**

**Joint Report of the Lead Officer and the Director of Corporate Resources**

**Development of the Annual Scrutiny Programme 2014/15**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To invite Members to give preliminary consideration to the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2014/15.

**Background**

2. The annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for 2013/14 was approved by the Council at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2014. The report stated that early consideration would be given to potential topics for inclusion in the 2014/15 Annual Scrutiny Programme. The Programme will contain topics for consideration by individual Scrutiny Committees and the Board itself.
3. The starting point for developing the 2014/15 Annual Scrutiny Programme is to consider any topics or items of business that need to be rolled forward from 2013/14. For ease of reference, the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2013/14 is attached as Appendix 1.
4. The development of the Annual Scrutiny Programme will continue to be a Member-led process taking account of the views of Directorates, Scrutiny Chairs and others. Members are asked to reflect on the number of topics selected for the Annual Scrutiny Programme in the context of the Council's budgetary situation, corporate priorities and organisational capacity. Scrutiny Committees will retain some discretion over the number of topics they wish to scrutinise, however, the workloads of Committees need to remain manageable.
5. Initial consultation with Directorates has identified a number of possible key topics for consideration taking account of key corporate challenges and priorities. These will be discussed with Members at the meeting and be considered alongside any other suggested topics that arise during the preliminary consultation. Proformas will be available at the meeting concerning proposed items for scrutiny in 2014/15 outlining the scope of the possible topics.
6. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will meet early in the new municipal year to formally approve the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2014/15. Scrutiny Committees will, of course, retain the flexibility to scrutinise any additional topics that might arise during the year. In carrying out their individual work programmes, Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs have the freedom to adapt their approaches to carry out the scrutiny reviews allocated to them.

7. The Board has previously discussed the process and protocols for referring individual items to Scrutiny Committees outside the agreed Annual Scrutiny Programme. In future, requests for the referral of specific items for scrutiny will be channelled through the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. The Board will then decide whether to undertake the scrutiny review itself or refer the matter to a specific Scrutiny Committee.
8. Last year, informal development sessions were held for Members of each Scrutiny Committee and Officers immediately following the first meeting of each of the Scrutiny Committees in June/July. This allowed a discussion on the scope of the topics to be scrutinised; the process of gathering information (including the 'witnesses' to be invited to attend) and the timescales for carrying out the reviews. It is recommended that this approach be continued for 2014/15.
9. Member Development sessions will also be organised in relation to budget scrutiny. In 2014/15, Scrutiny Committees will focus on the detailed scrutiny of individual Directorate budget proposals whilst retaining some flexibility for cross-cutting issues. Following the programmed cycle of Scrutiny Committees in November, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will meet to scrutinise the overall budget proposals on a strategic basis.
10. The Council's overview and scrutiny arrangements will continue to be the subject of an annual review process. Any relevant issues will be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board during the municipal year.

### **Finance**

11. The costs of operating the scrutiny arrangements will be contained within existing budgetary allocations.

### **Law**

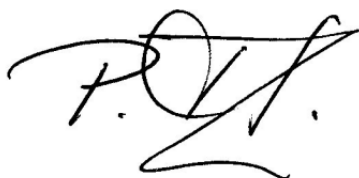
12. Scrutiny Committees are established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which was adopted under the Local Government Act 2000, subsequent legislation and associated Regulations and Guidance.
13. Scrutiny powers relating to health are included in the Health and Social Care Acts 2001 and 2012 and associated Regulations and statutory guidance. The Police and Justice Act 2006 gives the Council powers to scrutinise the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enables local authorities to scrutinise other partners. Much of this legislation has now been consolidated in the Localism Act 2011.

### **Equality Impact**

14. Provision exists within the recommended scrutiny arrangements for overview and scrutiny to be undertaken of the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

## **Recommendation**

15. That Members give preliminary consideration to items for inclusion in the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2014/15.



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**Ron Sims**  
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## **List of Background Papers**

Reports and minutes of the Council dated 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2014

**Annual Scrutiny Programme 2013/14**

<b>Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Areas for Scrutiny</b>
Corporate Performance Management, Effectiveness and Efficiency Scrutiny Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (Year 2)</li><li>• Apprenticeships and Work Experience</li><li>• Corporate Complaints System</li></ul>
Adult, Community and Housing Services Scrutiny Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Impacts and Outcomes of the Making it Real Agenda – What Does Personalisation Mean for the People in Dudley</li><li>• Welfare Reforms and Housing – The Dudley Response</li></ul>
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safeguarding Standards within the Borough and Children's Services Contribution</li><li>• Looked After Children – Provision and Outcomes</li><li>• Early Intervention Strategy for the Borough</li></ul>
Urban Environment Scrutiny Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parks, Nature Reserves and Open Spaces Strategy</li><li>• Support to Local Businesses</li><li>• Traffic Regulation Orders – the process</li></ul>
Health Scrutiny Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tobacco Control Strategy - Update/Development</li><li>• Elements of Patient Experience in Acute Care</li></ul>