

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY INQUIRY PROGRAMME FOR 2010/11		
DATE OF DECISION:	22 APRIL 2010		
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF POLICY AND IMPROVEMENT		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

SUMMARY

This report requests that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agrees a draft Scrutiny Inquiry programme for 2010/11. A list of potential Inquiry topics is detailed in Appendix 1. This list has been developed in consultation with the Council's Chief Officers' Management Team, the Southampton Partnership Delivery Board and Elected Members. The agreed Inquiry programme needs to be incorporated within a maximum of 24 available meetings of the Council's 3 Scrutiny Panels, subject to the new scrutiny structure for 2010/11 being approved at full Council in May 2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That the Committee agrees a draft Scrutiny Inquiry programme for 2010/11 and delegates authority to the Head of Policy and Improvement to amend the final programme in consultation with the Chair of the OSMC.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To determine the Scrutiny Inquiry programme for the 2010/11 municipal year and to enable appropriate support arrangements to be put in place to secure their delivery.

CONSULTATION

2. The Council's Chief Officers' Management Team, the Southampton Partnership Delivery Board and Elected Members have been consulted in the development of the draft scrutiny inquiry programme 2010/11. Feedback from this consultation has been incorporated into the draft inquiry list detailed in Appendix 1.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. None. The Overview and Scrutiny Procure Rules within the Council's Constitution require the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to establish a programme of Scrutiny Inquiries.

DETAIL

4. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agreed on 25th March 2010 to seek the Council's support for the introduction of a revised overview and scrutiny structure for the 2010/11 municipal year. The proposals reduce the number of Scrutiny Panels from 5 to 3 with each Panel meeting on a monthly basis, excluding August and December.
5. After taking into account the time needed to consider statutory community safety and health issues the total number of Inquiry meetings that will be undertaken by the 3 Panels A, B and C next year is 24, comprising:
 - Panel A: 8 meetings
 - Panel B: 6 meetings
 - Panel C: 10 meetings.
6. Members therefore need to identify Inquiry topics from the draft list detailed in Appendix 1 that they wish the Scrutiny Panels to review in 2010/11, and allocate the appropriate number of meetings to each Inquiry, up to the maximum available identified above.
7. The list of potential inquiry topics for 2010/11 has been discussed with the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, the Chief Officers' Management Team at its meeting on 30th March 2010, the Southampton Partnership Delivery Board at its meeting on 8th April 2010, and the Chair of this Committee has written to all Councillors giving them the opportunity to contribute to the Scrutiny Inquiry proposals.
8. The list in Appendix 1 includes topics agreed in 2009 but not started in 2009/10. Given that increasingly the delivery of council services is done in partnership with others, it would be appropriate to primarily focus the inquiry programme on areas which are significant issues for the city and lend themselves to greater partnership working.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

9. None.

Revenue

10. The revenue costs of undertaking the inquiries will be contained within the approved 2010/11 General Fund revenue budget.

Property

11. None.

Other

12. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

13. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Other Legal Implications:

14. None.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

15. None.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Draft Overview and Scrutiny Inquiry Programme 2010/11
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Documents In Members' Rooms

	None
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Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

	None.	
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Background documents available for inspection at:

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	Not applicable
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POTENTIAL SCRUTINY AREAS FOR 2010/11

INQUIRY AREA	POTENTIAL FOCUS OF THE REVIEW
Green Energy - CHP	Ensuring council led projects in the city are as energy efficient and sustainable as possible with a focus on low carbon emissions
Public Transport in the City and sub region	Consideration of affordable and accessible transport in the TfSH region – explore joint SCC/ HCC/ TfSH Panel as a one off joint Scrutiny exercise
Capita Review	Review of progress to date: what were the original expectations, what has been delivered, changes that have had to be considered, what went well/ hasn't gone well, implications/ learning points for the next 5 – 7 years
Knowledge Economy	Maximising the benefits of the 2 universities and creating a knowledge economy in Southampton. Consideration of the Centre for Cities report, revision of the PUSH ED plan emerging for the DTZ work, Business Southampton lead in developing a single marketing entity for the city from April 2010 and the aspiration for the city to attract become an office location
New Ways of Working and links to the Office Accommodation Strategy	Mobile Working – where we now, where we want to be and can we learn from what other councils have done?
Neighbourhood Management and locality working	Is there a corporate vision and action plan that reflects the Neighbourhood management and locality working being rolled out in CSL? Have we got the right and consistent approach? How joined up is it?
Economic Development	How can the city maximize the benefits of the cruise industry in Southampton? The role of tourism in Southampton's economy, what more could we do - making Southampton a 'destination of choice' not a place people pass through.
Equalities	Access audit of the city for disabled people
Balanced communities	Managing the level of HMOs
Children and Young People's Services	Educational Attainment – how do primary schools deal with special needs including children with ADHD? (need to consult the Children and Young People's Trust on this)
Children and Young People's Services	Transition of care leavers between the ages of 16 – 18, the role of corporate parenting and the wider support to care leavers
Environment	State of the roads and pavements in the city and how the council prioritises road and pavement repairs.
Health	A focus on one of the measures in health inequalities, e.g. high levels of smoking, in order to produce recommendations for preventative action
Planning	City Centre Action Plan and what it might mean for the city [mini inquiry]
Health	Since the scrutiny function of a local authority has been criticised nationally for failing to hold a local health trust to account OSMC may want to devote time to the question 'Is SCC genuinely holding the local NHS to account both in regards to the value it obtains in spending almost £400m pa and/or the quality of the services it commissions'.