

PART A

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting: 26 March 2013
Report of: Committee and Scrutiny Officer
Title: Work Programme and New Scrutiny Suggestions

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides the latest version of the rolling work programme and two scrutiny suggestions for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 that the rolling work programme, attached at Appendix 1, be noted.

2.2 that Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the scrutiny proposal, submitted by Councillor Khan, to review the Watford Community Housing Trust as set out on the proposal attached as Appendix 2.

2.3 that Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the scrutiny proposal, submitted by Councillors Rackett and Khan, to scrutinise the Council's property assets attached as Appendix 3.

Contact Officer:

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Report approved by: Carol Chen, Head of Legal and Property Services

3.0 DETAILED PROPOSAL

3.1 Work Programme

The latest version of the 2012/13 Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' consideration. The Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the rolling work programme and consider whether any amendments are required.

3.2 Scrutiny Suggestions

Since Overview and Scrutiny Committee's meeting on 21 November 2012 two scrutiny proposals have been submitted. Each suggestion is shown

below and Members are asked to consider the proposals and decide whether to approve them for time limited Task Groups.

3.3 Watford Community Housing Trust

Councillor Khan has suggested that a scrutiny review is carried out to look at the quality of service provided by Watford Community Housing Trust to local residents. The full proposal is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

3.4 Following receipt of the suggestion the Committee and Scrutiny Officer emailed all non-Executive to enquire if they were interested in taking part should a Task Group be agreed. To date the following Councillors have expressed an interest in taking part in the review. They are listed in order of response –

- Asif Khan
- Jackie Connal
- Stephen Johnson
- Anne Joynes
- Karen Collett

3.5 The Committee and Scrutiny Officer also contacted the Executive Director and Head of Community Services informing them of the suggestion. It was noted that the proposal did not relate to a Council function.

3.6 The Committee and Scrutiny Officer has also forwarded the scrutiny suggestion to the Chief Executive at Watford Community Housing Trust.

3.7 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to review Councillor Khan's scrutiny suggestion and consider whether to establish a Task Group. If agreed, the Scrutiny Committee will need to agree the Task Group membership.

3.8 Property Services

The second scrutiny suggestion was submitted by Councillors Steve Rackett and Asif Khan. This proposal suggests a Member-led scrutiny of the Council's property assets. The full proposal is attached as Appendix 3 to this report.

3.9 The Committee and Scrutiny Officer contacted all non-Executive Councillors inviting expressions of interest in the prospective review. The following Councillors have indicated that they would like to participate in the review should it be agreed –

- Steve Rackett
- Asif Khan
- Stephen Johnson

3.10 The Committee and Scrutiny Officer forwarded the suggestion to the Head of Legal and Property Services and Property Section Head for her

comments. The response is appended to the scrutiny suggestion at Appendix 3.

- 3.11 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the proposal to review the Council's property assets and decide whether to establish a Task Group. If agreed, Members are asked to approve the membership for the Task Group. The Task Group should comprise a minimum of three Councillors and preferably no more than five.
- 3.12 If the Scrutiny Committee agrees to set up two Task Groups, it will be necessary to prioritise the order in which the Task Groups are carried out. This is to ensure there is sufficient support available in Democratic Services to carry out its work. It is suggested that the Scrutiny Committee sets a timescale for each of the reviews.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Financial**

4.1.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

4.2.1 The Head of Legal and Property Services comments that there are no legal implications in this report.

Appendix

Appendix 1 – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Rolling Work Programme

Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Proposal from Councillor Khan – Watford Community Housing Trust

Appendix 3 – Scrutiny Proposal from Councillors Rackett and Khan – Review of the Council's property assets and response from the Head of Legal and Property Services

Background Papers

Minutes of previous meetings

File Reference

None