

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. Meeting:	Self-Regulation Select Commission
2. Date:	8 December 2011
3. Title:	Work programme update
4. Directorate:	Resources All wards

5. Summary

The report updates Members on the progress of the work programme for the Self-Regulation Select Commission for the 2011/12 municipal year and asks for views on its work.

6. Recommendations

That members

- a. Discuss the work programme as attached and give consideration to priority areas for future scrutiny.**
- b. Give its comments on the discussion points outlined in para 7.3**

7. Proposals and Details

7.1 As outlined in the Council's Constitution, the remit of the Self-Regulation Select Commission is to:

- scrutinise the Council's self assessment processes as part of the self-regulation framework
- scrutinise issues and actions emerging from external assessments (peer review, inspection etc)
- monitor and hold to account the performance of service delivery within RMBC and its partners etc with particular reference to the Corporate Plan and Sustainable Community Strategy
- scrutinise and monitor whether efficiency savings are achieved or exceeded
- co-ordinate the carrying out of value for money reviews
- scrutinise the annual budget setting process
- monitor the Council budget and MTFS

7.2 Each select commission has planned its work programme in line with its remit and Corporate Priorities; Self-Regulation's work programme is attached as Appendix A. Its main focus is the scrutiny of the budget process. Preparation for this started in October and will run into the new year. Other activity has focused on monitoring performance; responding to consultation and contributing to the peer review process for Children and Young People's Services. Additionally, the commission has received an update on the Local Government Association's 'self-regulation' agenda.

The Select Commission is asked for its comments on the programme.

7.3 In addition, mindful that the new overview and scrutiny structures have been recently introduced; as part of its initial evaluation the Management Board is seeking feedback on the following issues:

- Do you think that the select commissions are focussing on the 'right' issues in the 'right' way? If not, what needs to change
- Reviews: your views on the approach and process
- Views on work programme – do we have the 'right' balance? Is it achievable? If not, what needs to change?
- What can we do differently or better within current resources?

8. Finance

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However, recommendations arising from the Select Commission may have financial implications should they be implemented.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

9.1 The work programme is flexible and issues may be referred to the Select Commission which are not known about at this stage. The work programme therefore, must be realistic in terms of its capacity to properly examine issues that

come before it. If additional items are added, the Select Commission may have to re-prioritise which issues it wishes to scrutinise.

9.2 Members should note that the Coalition Government Localism and Open Public Services agenda may have further implications for the commission's work programme.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Having a strong overview and scrutiny function which is focused on holding the local authority to account for poor performance or poor practice will enhance the Council's credibility for self regulation. The work programme is currently aligned to the key priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

This report has been brought at the request of Cllr Glyn Whelbourn and Cllr Darren Hughes

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Work programme:**Appendix A**

July 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking the Lead – setting the context for self-regulation • Corporate Performance Report • Strategic Partnership
September 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Young People's Services Peer Review • Budget Outturn • Central Establishment Charges • Further update on performance report
October 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business rates consultation • Housing Revenue Account update • 2011/12 Budget monitoring report • 2012/13 Budget timetable and MTFS
December 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012/13 Budget timetable and MTFS • Feedback from CYPs Peer Review • Performance Quarter 2 report • Consultation: Council Tax
January 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Complaints • 2012/13 Budget Timetable and MTFS • CECs
March 8 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter 3 performance
April 19 th	

To schedule

- Town Centre Initiatives – has value for money be achieved
- Strategic Partnerships – next steps
- Monitoring of scrutiny review “RMBC’s Use of Consultants”
- PFI – lessons learnt