

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

<b>1. Meeting:</b>	<b>Health Select Commission</b>
<b>2. Date:</b>	<b>31st May, 2012</b>
<b>3. Title:</b>	<b>Work Programme: 2012/13</b>
<b>4. Directorate:</b>	<b>Resources</b>

### **5. Summary**

The paper outlines current options for a Scrutiny Work Programme for 2012/13.

### **6. Recommendations**

#### **That the Health Select Commission:**

- Identifies priority areas to be fed into the draft work programme in line with the Commission's remit
- Identify any areas for review to be undertaken during 2012/13
- Consider how they would like to tackle any nominated themes (as outlined below) and to update verbally at the meeting
- Consider other issues which need to be included, in light of comments made about resource limitations

## 7. Proposals and details

As outlined in the Council's Constitution, the remit of the Health Select Commission includes:

- To be the council's designated scrutiny body for any issue relating to health and the public health agenda
- Partnerships and commissioning arrangements in relation to health and wellbeing and their governance arrangements
- Health improvements and the promotion of wellbeing for adults and children of Rotherham
- Measures to address health inequalities
- Food law and environmental health
- Issues referred to it by the Local Involvement network (or successor body)

As we are at the start of the new municipal year there is a need to begin the development of a new annual work programme. There are a number of factors which need to be considered in pulling the programme together:

- A retrospective look at what was achieved in 2011/12 and any outstanding issues that need to carry forward
- Health's 2011/12 work programme is attached as Appendix A. Its main focus included development area projects with the Centre for Public Scrutiny and a review of continuing healthcare
- An opportunity for Scrutiny members to feed issues of concern, into the respective Select Commissions, and enter into a wider discussion around the detail of the work programme
- In addition to work identified on priority areas or issues referred from the previous municipal year, members are asked for comments on areas to be addressed by the Commission during 2012/13. These should be in line with the commission's remit (suggestions for areas of work relating to other commissions will be referred to OSMB for consideration).

It is also important to note the changes that have occurred during the last year and the reduction in staffing resources. Any work programme needs to take account of this and look realistically at what can be achieved and where it is best to focus resources and efforts.

Discussions have already been taking place between Cabinet, SLT and Scrutiny Chairs to identify some strategic priorities for the work programme that will involve joint working across both the Executive and Scrutiny's Commissions. These include:

- Fuel Poverty
- 11 most deprived areas
- Troubled Families
- Welfare Reform
- Role of local members in their communities
- Reducing Health Inequalities
- Special Educational Needs and announced legislative changes

These joint priorities of Cabinet, Scrutiny and SLT are to be discussed at the OSMB meeting of 25th May. These priorities would represent overarching themes which can

either be retained by OSMB to explore or allocated to the Select Commissions to lead on. At the time of writing, OSMB have yet to recommend to individual commissions which ones are priorities for the work programme and how these will be allocated. This will be reported verbally to the meeting.

It is suggested that nominated commissions could then work on the theme and develop an appropriate programme to address the issues. An example of this is the recent work done on Fuel Poverty. Following a themed meeting at the Improving Places commission, a working session was set up which looked in depth at a whole range of issues associated with Fuel Poverty, followed by a focused discussion on what issues Scrutiny could add value to by focusing on e.g. a review of the up and coming Green Deal and how it will work in Rotherham.

A range of methods can be used to look at this including task groups, spotlight reviews, information sessions as well as full reviews.

The work programme is flexible and issues may be referred to OSMB and Select Commissions by individual members as well as from other sources, including members of the public. In determining its priorities for the work programme, OSMB Members should make a judgment on what outcomes may be achieved by accepting a referral, bearing in mind resource and capacity implications.

It is suggested that the work programme is reviewed by OSMB members and Select Commissions at regular intervals. This will ensure that issues of greater importance can be given a higher priority, reflecting changing circumstances or events. However if new issues are introduced, to ensure that the work programme is manageable and achievable, Members will need to decide if other items should 'fall off the agenda' to accommodate these discussions.

## **8. Finance**

There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

It is important that a robust work plan is put in place to ensure that the work of the Scrutiny is targeted, effective and delivers clear outcomes. The risk of not doing this is that the agenda items will become information items and not add value to the work of the Council.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The proposed work programme takes on board key policy agendas the Council is currently considering and performance information as and where necessary.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

Cabinet/SLT/Scrutiny Chairs meetings.

## **12. Contact**

Kate Green  
Scrutiny Officer  
[Kate.green@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.green@rotherham.gov.uk)