

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

<b>1. Meeting:</b>	<b>Self-Regulation Select Commission</b>
<b>2. Date:</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> May 2012</b>
<b>3. Title:</b>	<b>Work programme: 2012/13</b>
<b>4. Directorate:</b>	<b>Resources All wards</b>

### **5. Summary**

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

### **6. Recommendations**

#### **That Members:**

- Identify 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 in para 7.4) and to be updated verbally at the meeting
- Other issues which need to be included, in light of comments made about resource limitations.

## 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 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
  - Self-Regulation's 2011/12 work programme is attached as Appendix A. Its main focus was the scrutiny of the budget setting process. (The report from the Scrutiny of the Budget Process will be available at July's meeting of the Commission). Other activity has focused on monitoring performance and finance; scrutinising strategic partnerships and responding to consultation and contributing to the peer review process for Children and Young People's Services. Members of the Commission have also been involved in ad-hoc Performance Clinics during the year.
- 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).

7.3 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.

7.4 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. (see below).

- 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 (outlined in para 7.2) are to be discussed at the OSMB meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> April. 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.

- 7.5 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 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**

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**Work programme:****Appendix A**

July 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking the Lead – setting the context for self-regulation</li> <li>• Corporate Plan Outcomes (Corporate Performance Report)</li> <li>• Strategic Partnership</li> </ul>
September 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and Young People's Services Peer Review</li> <li>• Budget Outturn</li> <li>• Central Establishment Charges (Support Cost Review)</li> <li>• Further update on performance report</li> </ul>
October 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business rates consultation</li> <li>• Housing Revenue Account update</li> <li>• 2011/12 Budget monitoring report</li> <li>• 2012/13 Budget timetable and MTFS</li> </ul>
December 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2012/13 Budget timetable and MTFS</li> <li>• Feedback from Children and Young People's Services Peer Review</li> <li>• Corporate Plan Outcomes Performance Quarter 2 report</li> <li>• Consultation: Council Tax</li> </ul>
January 26 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2011/12 Revenue Budget Monitor</li> <li>• Budget 2012/13</li> <li>• Strategic Partnering</li> <li>• Digital Region</li> </ul>
February 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed Revenue Budget and Council Tax for 2012/13</li> </ul>
March 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complaints and Compliments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adult Social Care Complaints – Annual Report 2010 – 2011</li> <li>- Children and Young People's Comment, Compliments and Complaint – April to September 2011</li> <li>- EDS Customer Care Overview Report 1st July, 2011 to 31st December, 2011</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Corporate Plan Outcomes Performance Quarter 2 report</li> <li>• Revenue Budget Monitoring for the period ending 31st December, 2011</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Risk Register</li> </ul>
April 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Costs Review</li> <li>• Update Report - Scrutiny Review into the Use of Consultants</li> <li>• Overview of Housing Revenue Account 30 Year Business Plan Modelling</li> <li>• Scrutiny Review of RMBC's District Heating Schemes (report herewith)</li> <li>• 2012/13 Money Matters Budget Consultation Findings</li> <li>• Digital Regions Updates</li> </ul>

Issues Highlighted by members but not prioritised:

- Town Centre Initiatives – has value for money be achieved
- PFI – lessons learnt