

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1. Meeting:	Improving Lives Select Commission
2. Date:	24th October, 2012
3. Title:	Work programme update
4. Directorate:	Resources All wards

5. Summary

The paper updates the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2012/13 and seeks volunteers to be part of two task and finish groups to shape input into future agendas.

6. Recommendations

That Members:

- a. Agree to set up two task and finish groups to scope the Commission's work in the following areas:**
 - **anti-bullying work in schools**
 - **early help and prevention.**
- b. Seek volunteers (up to a maximum of five) to be part of each group.**
- c. Receive further updates at December's Commission meeting.**

7. Proposals and details

7.1 The Select Commission received a report to its September meeting which agreed a work programme for the 2012/13 Municipal Year. There are a number of areas identified as priorities by the Commission yet to be scheduled. These include:

- The issue of anti-bullying - this has been referred to the commission by the Youth Cabinet and has been prioritised in its Youth Manifesto.
- The Commission has also identified the importance of early help and prevention agenda.

- 7.2 Both items are wide-ranging and complex and there is considerable work underway in both fields. In order that members focus on areas where scrutiny's input can add the most value, it is suggested that two time limited task and finish groups are set up to look at each issue to identify key areas for inquiry for scrutiny to explore. Involving relevant officers and partners will ensure that the focus of the meeting accurately reflects members' concerns and interests and is timely. In addition, the task and finish groups may identify areas for future member involvement in either of these significant agendas. In respect of the anti-bullying work, this will be coordinated with Youth Cabinet members and their support officers.
- 7.3 Early help and prevention has been provisionally scheduled for December's meeting. There is scope to schedule further work on anti-bullying at the same meeting or in early 2013.
- 7.4 Other priorities identified by the Commission, including tackling domestic abuse and countering child exploitation will be scheduled in 2013. If the approach outlined above is positive, it is suggested that a similar methodology is applied to these issues.

8. Finance

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

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The work programme must be realistic in terms of the Commission's capacity to properly examine issues that come before it. If additional items are added, the panel may have to re-prioritise which issues it wishes to scrutinise.

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. The areas identified for future scrutiny should complement the priorities identified in the Corporate Plan.

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.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Improving Lives Select Commission; 6th June, 2012: Minute 6
Improving Lives Select Commission; 19 September, 2012: Minute 24

12. Contact

Caroline Webb, Senior Scrutiny Adviser, Resources Directorate
caroline.webb@rotherham.gov.uk (8)22765