

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Improving Places Select Commission</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday 23 July 2014</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Scrutiny Work Programme 2014-15</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Resources All wards</b>

### 5. Summary

The paper outlines the remit of the Commission and includes the proposed work programme for 2014-15.

### 6. Recommendations

#### That Members:

- a. **Note the Commission's terms of reference and the role of overview and scrutiny as outlined in paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2.**
- b. **Discuss the work programme as attached as Appendix A.**

### 7. Proposals and Details

#### 7.1 Terms of reference

As outlined in the Council's Constitution, the remit of the Improving Places Select Commission is to carry out overview and scrutiny of issues as directed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board. These issues shall relate to:

Community cohesion and social inclusion and the Council's specific initiatives to promote them;  
Tourism, culture and leisure services and strategies  
Borough Wide Housing and Neighbourhood Strategies  
Economic development and regeneration strategies;  
Environment and sustainable development

#### 7.2 Role of Overview and Scrutiny

The Council's Constitution Part II (8) outlines the role of Overview and Scrutiny. In summary its purpose is to:

- Challenge the Council's performance to raise standards and check if Council's services meet people's needs;
- Hold Cabinet Members to account by examining their decisions and proposals outlined in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions;
- Question members of the Cabinet and committees and chief officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the Borough;

- Ask for information on matters of concern or interest referred to them from individual councillors, Area Assemblies or members of the public;
- Hold detailed investigations or reviews and make recommendations to the Cabinet or full Council on issues which affect the wellbeing of the Borough or community;
- Consider and scrutinise the work of outside bodies;
- Make proposals for new policies as a result of detailed investigations or examining how current policies work.

### **7.3 Work programme**

All of the Select Commissions have agreed to adopt a key theme this year and for Improving Places this theme is Supporting the Local Economy. This is in the expectation that the outcome of the Scrutiny Review on this topic will lead to further work on specific issues and the fact that many of the infrastructure issues the commission addresses contribute either positively or otherwise to the development of the local economy.

Members are asked to consider this and the suggested draft work programme attached at Appendix A. OSMB will have already discussed this prior to the meeting and the outcome of these discussions will be fed in verbally.

### **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 development of a clear work programme maximises the potential for Scrutiny to have an impact and mitigates against the risk of using resources with little impact or outcome. It does, however, need to maintain flexibility to allow for uncertainties to be accommodated within the work programme. If additional items are added, the Commission will 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**

#### **12. Contact:**

Deborah Fellowes, Scrutiny Manager, ext 22769 [Deborah.fellowes@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Deborah.fellowes@rotherham.gov.uk)