

Eden District Council

Scrutiny Co-ordinating Board 13 January 2011

Work Programme Planning 2011-2012

Report of the Director of Policy and Performance

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to submit the list of proposed Work Programme topics for the Co-ordinating Board to approve for public consultation and to seek approval of the Board for the proposals for public consultation.

2 Recommendation:

It is recommended that:

- a) The Co-ordinating Board approve the proposal for creating the next Scrutiny Work Plan and the topics to be included.

3 Report Details

- 3.1 The Council has a 'Duty to involve' placed upon it by legislation. This duty has been made in order to involve members of the public in the way Council services are undertaken.
- 3.2 Scrutiny at Eden has always placed an emphasis on involving the public via consultation, when scrutinising topics and requesting submissions for the new Work Plan.
- 3.3 Whilst the Council has received a plentiful number of public submissions for the Work Plan in previous years, many have had to be discounted as not being suitable topics for varying reasons.
- 3.4 The 2010/11 Work Plan involved the public but in a more focussed way, and involved more scrutiny Members.
- 3.5 Attached at **Appendix A** is a list of topics already submitted for next year's Work Programme. This list will be updated following the meetings of the Housing and Community and the Environment and Economy Panels. The final version will be brought to Board where Members will be updated verbally.
- 3.6 The approved draft list can then be reproduced in the Eye on Eden, on the web site and electronic and hard copy versions will be available, inviting members of the public to indicate their preferred four topics which in their view, are the most important.

- 3.7 Parish Councils, Eden Officers and school councils will also be invited to contribute.
- 3.8 Once the consultation period is over a final report will be submitted to the Co-ordinating Board in April to finalise the Work Plan.
- 3.9 Last year Cllr. Morgan and pupils from Ullswater Community College and Queen Elizabeth Grammar School made a short video, which received 365 viewings, explaining how people could get involved in the Work Programme and scrutiny received nearly 80 consultation responses.

4 Policy Framework

4.1 The Council has four corporate priorities which are:

- Affordable Housing
- Quality Environment
- Economic Vitality
- Quality Council

Council on 7 February 2008 agreed fifteen strategic actions to achieve these priorities.

4.2 The Policy Framework will form the basis of the topic list.

5 Implications

5.1 Legal

5.1.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 Financial

5.2.1 As part of the 2008-11 corporate planning process the Council adopted a resource prioritisation process in which every area of council activity was allocated to one of four resource categories. These categories (which were agreed at Council on 7 February 2008) remain in force until the next corporate plan is adopted.

5.2.2 Scrutiny has a budget to undertake this work and there are no other financial implications arising from this report.

5.3 Equality and Diversity

5.3.1 The Council has to have regard to the elimination of unlawful discrimination and harassment and the promotion of equality under the Equality Act 2006 and related statutes.

5.3.2 The public consultation will be all inclusive.

5.4 Environmental

5.4.1 The Council has to have due regard to conserving bio-diversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

5.4.2 None arising from this report.

5.5 Crime and Disorder

5.5.1 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Council has to have regard to the need to reduce crime and disorder in exercising any of its functions.

5.5.2 None.

5.6 Children

5.6.1 Under the Children Act 2004 the Council has to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the exercise of any of its functions.

5.6.2 It is the intention to consult with school councils of the secondary schools within the District.

5.7 Risk Management

5.7.1 Consulting with the public will fulfil the Council’s ‘Duty to Involve’.

6 Reasons for decision/recommendation

6.1 This is a proposal designed to involve the public and improve scrutiny work planning. The Co-ordinating Board also need to approve the topic selection for consultation.

Ruth Atkinson
Director of Policy and Performance

Governance Checks:

Checked by or on behalf of the Chief Finance Officer	√
Checked by or on behalf of the Monitoring Officer	√

Background Papers: None
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2011/12 Possible Work Plan Topics

1. Charging for staff and Members for parking at the Town Hall and Mansion House. (proposed last year as a topic for 2011-12).
2. Parking enforcement (for 2011/12 if the proposal for a county wide scheme does not progress in 2010/11). Note 'Parking Connect' – a county wide approach to parking enforcement, is still being progressed albeit at a very slow pace. It is still the intention that it will be introduced during 2011/12.
3. Repeat of the Mystery Shopping Exercise which looks at whether council services are delivered to the standards advertised to the public.
4. Environmental Health – a value for money exercise.
5. Eden Business Park. A review of what has happened to date so that the Council can move forward in a businesslike way so that the site can be developed further
6. Consideration of the Housing Development Plan Document which allocates sites for housing across the district, before it is finalised.
7. How the council can best meet the public sector duties in the Equalities Act 2010 (provisions are due to be introduced from April 2011).