



meeting            Community Services Select Committee

date                18<sup>th</sup> July 2005

agenda item number

## **Report of the Assistant Director, Policy, Performance, and Development**

### **Proposed Work Programme**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. Following on from the discussion at the Committee's June meeting this paper proposes a work programme for the forthcoming year.

#### **Background**

2. At its last meeting the Committee considered the three portfolios within its purview. In view of the wide range of issues the select committee could potentially scrutinise, members concluded that they wanted to focus their efforts and to examine areas where they could have an influence.
3. Members also decided that they would invite the three portfolio holders to attend their meetings regularly to explore the issues that are on their policy and performance horizon, and in particular identify where the select committee could have an influence.
4. There are a variety of possible approaches to individual issues, including:
  - a) Requesting that portfolio holders and officers present reports to the full committee
  - b) Establishing ad hoc sub-committees or study groups to explore issues in greater depth and report back to the full committee
  - c) Inviting external witnesses to give evidence to the committee or sub-committee, or otherwise consulting them
  - d) Commissioning independent research
  - e) Visiting services and other provision.
5. It was particularly suggested that new members would appreciate the opportunity to visit front-line services – especially where they are less likely to visit them in the normal course of events. It may be possible to arrange meetings in appropriate locations (for instance the proposed discussion as

part of the Great Libraries Debate could be usefully held in a library). In other instances it might be appropriate to arrange specific visits. Suggestions so far include:

- a) The Nottinghamshire Archives Office
- b) Some of our Regeneration projects, perhaps the Training Partnership, the Manfield I Centre, or the Pleasley Landmark Centre.

### **Areas for scrutiny**

- 6. The areas identified in the presentation and discussion at the last meeting are summarised below.
- 7. **Portfolio Reports.**
  - 7.1 The Committee requested that the portfolio holders be invited on a regular basis to report on the performance of services in their portfolios and the issues on their horizons. The portfolio holder for community safety and partnerships has been invited to this meeting and is earlier on the agenda.
- 8. **Community Strategy.**
  - 8.1 The previous committee received regular reports on progress on the community strategy. The revised framework for the community strategy is currently out for consultation with stakeholders.
  - 8.2 It is hoped to finalise the community strategy during the summer to align it with work on the local area agreement and the council's strategic plan. Members will be involved in this. A partner's summit is planned for September with the strategy then coming to the full Council for endorsement in October.
  - 8.3 It is anticipated that the select committee will subsequently monitor progress on the community strategy.
- 9. **Local Strategic Partnerships.**
  - 9.1 The Committee received a report in April on the development and achievements of LSPs. During the discussion it was suggested that the committee might want to examine how well the County Council engages with district LSPs.
  - 9.2 At her first report to the County Council, the portfolio holder for community safety and partnerships indicated her intention to re-examine the way the County Council is working with the District LSPs. She intends to revitalise the district Members Forums with each Forum electing a representative to the Board of its district LSP, with a clear mandate from their colleagues on Board issues.
  - 9.3 Members of the select committee were interested in revitalising local arrangements and engagement with district LSPs, and would support the

portfolio holder's intentions. It is suggested that the committee keeps a watching brief over this area.

**10. Trading Standards Peer Review.**

10.1 The final report of the peer review has now been received and an improvement plan is being developed. A report on the improvement plan is elsewhere on this agenda.

10.2 Members will have commented on the improvement plan in considering the earlier report. Subject to any comments made earlier, it is suggested that officers bring a report on progress early in 2006.

**11. Effectiveness of community safety initiatives.**

11.1 Members expressed an interest in examining the effectiveness of specific community safety initiatives, including community wardens.

11.2 It is suggested that a study group of members could be established to explore this in some depth, perhaps through discussions on research, police, and crime and disorder partnerships.

**12. Experience Nottinghamshire.**

12.1 The outgoing committee discussed the arrangements for monitoring the relationship with Experience Nottinghamshire with the Culture Portfolio Holder at its last meeting and requested a further update after six months.

12.2 It may be appropriate to invite the culture portfolio holder to the October meeting and cover these issues in those discussions.

**13. "Hear by Right".**

13.1 The Council has adopted these national standards for involving young people and is currently undertaking a self-assessment to see how well we meet them. At its April meeting the Committee agreed to receive a report on the improvement plan when the self-assessment has been completed.

13.2 It is proposed to bring a report to future meeting

**14. Children Act.**

14.1 At its April meeting the Committee received a briefing on the Act and the implications for Nottinghamshire. It noted the report and requested further updates as progress is made on the Council's response.

**15. Deployment of Youth Workers.**

15.1 Members expressed an interest in understanding how youth workers are allocated and deployed across the county.

**16. Libraries for the Future.**

- 16.1 The capital programme from 2006/7 includes provision for significant capital investment in developing libraries as the hub of the community. This results from the work of the Strategic Property Ad Hoc Committee.
- 16.2 The Library Service is currently undertaking the “Great Libraries Debate” to consult users and non-users on what they want from libraries. An initial market research report is expected within the next couple of weeks. Over the summer the department is planning a programme of events to explore these issues further and give a wider cross-section of the Nottinghamshire population a chance to contribute.
- 16.3 It is suggested that the Committee may find it worthwhile to dedicate a substantial session to explore the initial findings from the debate perhaps at the October meeting.

**17. Adult and Community Learning Service Inspection.**

- 17.1 The inspection took place in April and the report has been received. The overall grading achieved through the inspection is disappointing and a reinspection is likely after 12 months. However, the inspection report recognised that our self-assessment was robust and expressed confidence that the service has the capacity to make the improvements required.
- 17.2 A report on the inspection and the improvement plan is on this meeting's agenda. It is suggested that the committee monitor progress through reports as appropriate.

**18. Regeneration.**

- 18.1 From the presentation at the last meeting on service performance, members identified areas of the department's performance which required further monitoring. These are particularly:
  - a) The PSA target on increasing the number of disabled people moving into unsupported employment
  - b) The strategic plan targets on job-creation and reducing employment to the regional average.
- 18.2 Specific targets have been set to improve performance against the PSA target. It is proposed that the department monitors progress over the first two quarters of the year and a further report is produced if performance is still causing concern.
- 18.3 We have just received a report from the local futures group on the state of the County. Among its conclusions is that although Nottinghamshire has worked hard to replace the jobs lost in the 1990s it is still vulnerable to global competition. The Leader has instigated a seminar for all members in the early autumn including a presentation on the local futures work. This should

provide the context for this committee's consideration of the council's work on economic development.

**19. Services for disabled children and young people.**

19.1 An officer group across the Culture and Community Department has undertaken a review of how accessible our services are for disabled children and young people. The review identified the main areas for action as being: improving the provision of information; encouraging economic well-being; and facilitating access to leisure and social activities. Members may want to engage in the discussions on priorities.

19.2 It is proposed to bring a report to a future meeting of the Committee.

**20. Services for older people.**

20.1 Members noted the emphasis of much of the department's work on young people and asked about specific services for older people and it is proposed to commission an audit of services for older people and bring a report to a future meeting.

**Programme**

21. It is suggested that this work is programmed as follows

Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Report from Community Safety and Partnerships portfolio ACLS Inspection and improvement plan Trading Standards Peer Review
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Report from Culture portfolio Great Libraries Debate
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Report from Regeneration portfolio Review of performance (including PSA targets) Services for disabled children and young people
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Progress on ACLS improvement plan Report back from sub-committee on community safety initiatives
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2006	Report from Community Safety and Partnerships portfolio Trading Standards peer review progress
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Report from Culture portfolio
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Report from Regeneration portfolio
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> June	

22. This programme gives a shape to the forthcoming year while giving scope for additional issues to be picked up as members deem appropriate.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

23. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report.

### **Recommendation**

24. It is recommended that the work programme as set out in the report be approved.

### **Steve Morley**

Assistant Director

Policy, Performance, and Development

### **Legal Services Comments**

The wide range of areas covered by this report means that various parts of its contents fall within the delegations to the Portfolio Holders for Community Safety, Culture and Regeneration. (JA 06.07.05)

### **Director of Resources' Financial Comments**

### **Background Papers Available for Inspection**

Nil

### **Electoral Division(s) Affected**

All