



meeting

**SOCIAL SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE**

date

**16 May 2006**

agenda item number

## **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SCRUTINY**

### **Annual Review 2005-06 and Work Programme**

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

1. This report introduces the Select Committee to the Annual Review for 2005-06 and invites Members to consider Scrutiny issues for 2006-07.

#### **Background**

2. Scrutiny at the County Council is Member led; at the beginning of the municipal year each Select Committee was invited to develop a realistic and flexible work programme for 2005/06. Members were invited to consider why items should be included on a work programme and to prioritise issues of importance.
3. To ensure that scrutiny focuses on key issues, it is recommended that an item for inclusion should satisfy at least one of the following criteria:
  - A service that is performing poorly
  - A service with a high level of dissatisfaction
  - A service with a high level of budgetary commitment
  - A service that is a key priority in the Strategic Plan/Community Strategy
  - An external issue that is considered a priority by Members
  - A service that best practice could be learnt from and applied to other services
  - A service considered as important by the community
  - A service or issue identified by Members that is of key interest to the public

## **Issues**

4. The programme of work for 2005-06 is nearing its conclusion. Members may wish to consider the success of items that have been scrutinised during 2005-06. The Annual Review of Scrutiny for this Select Committee is attached at Appendix 1.
5. The Select Committee may wish to consider issues that could be scrutinised in 2006-07, including those items:
  - that have already been identified as part of the current work programme but have yet to be considered
  - that have been started but that will not be completed before the end of the current municipal year.
6. At a meeting of the Chairs' Forum on 16 March 2006, the Chairs of Select Committees considered the continuity of scrutiny work to the next municipal year. Members were concerned and wished to ensure that issues prioritised were not unnecessarily lost. The Chairs' Forum recommended that each Select Committee consider an item to review items on the Select Committee's Work Programme.
7. Issues for Scrutiny that were identified by Members for inclusion in the work programme, that have not been undertaken during 2005-06 are listed at Appendix 1 as part of the Annual Review. Items that have been started but have yet to be completed are also listed.
8. An action has been attached to each item making a recommendation for each issue as to how it could be scrutinised in 2006-07. The Select Committee may wish to consider these recommendations or propose an alternative action for each issue.
9. The structure of Scrutiny committees for 2006-07 has yet to be decided by County Council and it is anticipated that this will vary from the current arrangements. It is therefore suggested that the Select Committee should not agree a work programme for 2006-07, but that the recommendations of the Select Committee should be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration when setting its future work programme.

## **Options**

10. The Select Committee is invited to review the issues that were identified by Members for inclusion in the work programme, that have not been undertaken during 2005-06. The Select Committee may wish to remove these items or request their inclusion in the scrutiny work programme for 2006-07.

11. The Select Committee may also wish to consider the future of Scrutiny items that have been started but have yet to be completed.
12. Members may also wish to suggest other topics that could be considered for inclusion in the 2006-07 work programme.

**Recommendation**

13. It is recommended that:  
  
the Select Committee review the work programme for 2005-06  
and agree the action for each item outlined at Appendix 1 -  
Outstanding Areas of Work 2006.

**Lynn Senior**  
**Head of Scrutiny**