

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 January 2012

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Delegated

1 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

To review the future programme of scrutiny reviews.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 A report was made to the meeting of this Committee in June 2011 setting out a suggested work programme of reviews. As reported elsewhere on this agenda, the three reviews which were being taken forward: planning enforcement; winter maintenance; and air quality have all been progressed by separate scrutiny panels. The final report on the air quality review appears on this agenda. A further panel meeting of the planning enforcement review is being arranged for February and a final report will be made to the March meeting of this committee. An update on the winter maintenance review is being reported separately and will continue into the Spring with any final recommendations of that Panel being reported to June meeting.
- 1.1.2 Although a number of current reviews are ongoing, it is appropriate to examine which additional reviews could be undertaken by the Committee for the rest of 2012. The report to the June 2011 meeting identified the following areas for possible consideration:
- Waste Strategies
 - Parking Management and Enforcement
 - Occupational Therapy services (children)
 - Deposit Bond/Rent in Advance/Rent Deposit Schemes
- 1.1.3 Although waiting times for Children's Occupational Therapy assessments have recently improved, the Director of Health and Housing believes that a further review of this topic by the Scrutiny Committee would be well timed and would aim to ensure recent improvements in this important service can be maintained. It is therefore suggested that a scoping report for this review be made to the March

meeting of the Committee to set out the terms of the review and how this might best be progressed.

- 1.1.4 Parking Management is to be subject to an internal audit review during the first half of 2012. On this basis, it would appear appropriate for any recommendations from that process to inform a further review by the Scrutiny Committee. This could be undertaken later in the year. A scoping report for this review could therefore be considered at the June meeting of this Committee.
- 1.1.5 It is suggested that the remaining reviews, regarding waste strategies and rent deposit schemes etc should be deferred until later in the year. The shape and direction of the Government's future waste strategy and its priorities for recycling are yet to be fully clarified and the Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy is due to be refreshed in the Spring of 2012. A review of this topic would best be timed to co-incide with any newly emerging draft strategy documents later in 2012.
- 1.1.6 A full review of the rent deposit/deposit bond schemes was undertaken early in 2011 and reported to the Strategic Housing Advisory Board. It is suggested that a review of this scheme should be left to later in the year to enable a suitable period of operation of the new scheme to be undertaken and any additional issues to be identified.
- 1.1.7 Taking into account the above suggestions, the intention will be to ensure that, along with those reviews which have yet to be completed, new reviews are brought forward to maintain an appropriate work programme for the Committee for the remainder of this calendar year and beyond. Any additional suggestions from Members of the Committee regarding future topics for review are welcomed.

1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 None

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.3.1 Such matters are addressed as part of individual reviews.

1.4 Risk Assessment

- 1.4.1 N/A

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.5.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.6 Recommendations

- 1.6.1 That a scoping report for the review of Occupational Therapy assessments **BE REPORTED** to the March meeting of the Scrutiny Committee;

1.6.2 That, subject to appropriate progress being made with an internal audit of parking management and enforcement, a scoping report for this review **BE REPORTED** to the June meeting of this Committee.

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

David Hughes
Chief Executive

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	Such matters are dealt with as part of individual reviews
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	N/A	As above.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.