

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 19 JANUARY 2011

**WORK PROGRAMME MATTERS ARISING FROM THE
MEETING OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSIONERS**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to outline for members issues discussed at the meeting of Scrutiny Commissioners and to seek the approval of the Commission to:-
 - a) its draft work programme for February and March;
 - b) agree terms of reference for a Panel on Personalisation of Social Care,

Work Programmes

Background

2. Rule 7 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules states that *'overview and scrutiny committees dealing with County Council functions shall obtain the prior approval of the Scrutiny Commission for their work programme and in formulating their work programme they shall take into account wishes of members on that committee who are not members of the current political administration of the County Council.'*

Scrutiny Commission Work Programme

3. The Scrutiny Commission work programme was discussed and agreed at the previous meeting of the Commission. Following discussions the Commissioners are recommending the following changes be made to the work programme for the reasons outlined below:
 - i) Single Delivery Vehicle - Prospect Leicestershire/Leicestershire Promotions

At its last meeting the Commission requested an update on this matter to this meeting.

The Commissioners were advised that discussions were on going and a meeting involving officers and Leicestershire Promotions was due to be held on Tuesday 18th January, followed by a discussion at the Leadership Board on 20th January. Following these discussions a

report will be prepared for consideration by the County Council and City Council Cabinets.

The County Council Cabinet will consider the matter on 8th February and the Commissioners have asked for this report to be submitted to the Commission meeting on 2nd February so that scrutiny comments can be fed into the decision making process

ii) Forced Marriages – Light Touch Review

The Commissioners noted that the light touch review being undertaken by Mr Lewis CC and Mr Catt was nearing completion and would be submitted to the Commission meeting on 2nd March.

Review Panels

4. The Commissioners have identified the following issues which they considered would merit scrutiny by a review panel:-

a) Personalisation in Social Care and Safeguarding

The Commissioners were advised that the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Spokespersons of the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee had recommended that a panel be established with the terms of reference as set out in Appendix B to this report.

The Commissioners supported the request and considered that such a review was timely given the significant changes that would flow from the personalisation of social care services and the risks associated in relation to the safeguarding of those vulnerable adults who would be accessing services through this process.

b) Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age

The Commissioners considered a paper that had been published by the Department of Business innovation and Skills in November 2010 entitled 'Securing the Post Office in the Digital Age'.

The Commissioners concluded that there would be merit in undertaking a review of the impact of the Network Change Programme (2007) which resulted in the closure of 16 post offices and establishment of 5 outreach post offices. The Commissioners have requested officers to prepare a project brief to take this forward and the associated resource implications. It is intended to submit proposals to the Commission in March.

Equal Opportunities Implications

5. None.

Recommendations

6. The Scrutiny Commission is asked to:-
- a) agree the proposed revisions to its provisional work programme for February and March, as appended to the report;
 - b) agree the work programmes of overview and scrutiny committees, as appended to the report;
 - c) agree the establishment of a review panel on personalisation with the terms of reference outlined in Appendix B to this report and to nominate a member to serve as Chairman;
 - d) note the intention to bring a report to the March meeting of the Commission on a panel to look at 'Securing the Post Office in the Digital Age'.

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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Scrutiny Commission Draft Work Programme

Appendix B – Terms of Reference – Review Panel on Personalisation in Social Care and Safeguarding