

2nd DRAFT

FOR CONSULTATION

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

WORKPLAN 2005-06

Introduction:

- 1.1 The document which follows is a draft of the Overview and Scrutiny Work plan for 2005-6, drawn up by the Chairs and including suggestions from outside sources.

Consultation:

- 2.1 The Chairs propose to consult with the Executive of the Council, with the West Cumbria Partnership and with Parish and Town Councils before finalising the work programme and any comments to be made should be fed back to Jane Murray, Scrutiny Support Officer on 01946 598496. jmurray@copelandbc.gov.uk

Format

- 3.1 The Work Plan this year has been split into three sections:
- 1) Review
 - 2) Monitor/Challenge
 - 3) Policy Development/Working Groups

Some items will be marked 'pre-scrutiny', which means that the Chairs would like an initial report, before deciding whether to take forward to a full review.

REVIEWS

ITEM	REVIEWS	BACKGROUND	INT/EXT	TIMESCALE
Section 106 agreements	Pre-scrutiny → Poss review OSC EC	Members would like to establish what Copeland's policy is on 106 agreements. It has been suggested that the Council might make more of such agreements. A report of current policy will enable members to decide whether they wish to pursue this item further	Internal	June/July
Public Loos	REVIEW OSC ENV	Members would like to undertake a comprehensive review of the provision, standard and maintenance of public loos in Copeland, exploring best practice for delivery in rural areas, and the needs of local people and of the tourist industry in Copeland. In doing this, they will expect to retain a sense of realism and to look at all provision, including those provided by external organisations.	Internal and External	
Budget Criteria	REVIEW OSC PR/EC	Opinion is being voiced by some members of Overview and Scrutiny, particularly those of Environmental Well-being, that the budget criteria are too job focused. They point out that the right conditions need to be created for regeneration to flourish, and these are often environmental issues, and they also feel that issues that they have looked at, and which haven't necessarily scored very highly, for example travel concessions and pest control, are socially important issues that the Council does need to address. They want a review of the budget criteria, but they want Phase II of the Best Value of Regeneration, particularly the role that Copeland should play in the delivery of regeneration to inform the debate, hoping that the views of all partner organisations in regeneration will be sought before forming a conclusion.	Internal	Before budget setting process Head of Fin and Bus Dev to present initial report June Phase II of BVR Regeneration to feed in

ITEM	REVIEWS	BACKGROUND	INT/EXT	TIMESCALE
Car Parking Enforcement Policy and the administration of car parking permits and its impact on economic regeneration	Pre-scrutiny ↓ REVIEW OSC EC	A suggestion from a member of the public which the Chairs felt was a valid issue to investigate. Two preliminary reports on the policy adopted on the issuing of car park tickets and on how permits are administered, will allow the committee to consider if and how they wish to pursue a full-scale review of these policies in respect of economic regeneration.	Internal	??
Regeneration in West Cumbria	Pre-scrutiny Poss REVIEW OSC EC & joint with Allerdale and County	The LSP Economic Well-being group has suggested a joint review of who is doing what on the regeneration front in West Cumbria. It may well be that the timing for this is not the best, with Cumbria Vision on the horizon, however the Chairs would like a pre-scrutiny report of the funding that Copeland Borough Council has drawn down in 2004-05 from external sources, how this has been spent, and how many jobs have been directly created.	Internal ↓ Poss external	June/July
Enforcement	REVIEW OSC ENV	In the addition to the above, Members want to take a very close look at enforcement as a whole. It may well be that they will do this to feed into the review of the restructure (see below).	Internal	To start June/July
Restructure 6 mths +	REVIEW	Further thought is required as to how exactly this will be done, but their aim is to establish whether the restructuring exercise has delivered what it set out to do.		
Leisure Opening Hours	Pre-scrutiny → Poss Review	It has been suggested that Members might want to look at the opening hours of the pool, sports' centre etc, in particular in respect of public holidays. A preliminary report will be requested for members to decide whether they wish to look at this item in more depth.	Internal	To start June/July

ITEM	REVIEWS	BACKGROUND	INT/EXT	TIMESCALE
Light Pollution	REVIEW OSC ENV	Many youngsters these days grow up without ever seeing the Milky Way. The aim of this review would be to gather evidence about light pollution, how it can be combated at minimal cost, and whether a strategy can be put in place to diminish light pollution in Copeland.	Internal/ External	September/ October
Supporting People Strategy	Poss joint review with County OSC SOC	It has been suggested that a joint scrutiny by County and District be held, which Copeland has supported. However, we have pointed out that the timing may not be right as the new strategy only just came into force in April.	Internal/ External	??
Dentists	REVIEW OSC SOC	We have suggested to the health scrutiny cttee of the County Council that the provision of NHS dentists in Copeland should be scrutinised. Dentists have been put onto the work plan of the Health Scrutiny Cttee (on which Copeland has a representative), but yet to hear whether there is an appetite for joint working.	External	??
Schools in Copeland	Pre-scrutiny → Poss Review OSC SOC	The questionnaire carried out by OSC on the things that attract people to come and live here and those that put them off has not been given wide distribution as some of the data was unreliable. However, the results were largely predictable and placed a good deal of emphasis on the quality of schools. Recent statistics showing that Copeland is lagging behind the Cumbrian and national average when it comes to test results for 14 year olds has prompted the Committee to explore why this is the case, and in looking at the bigger picture, what more might be done to drive up performance.	External	??

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School dinners	Pre-scrutiny → Poss Review	A pre-scrutiny report on healthy food initiatives to be commissioned from the County, before deciding if the Review will take place and in what format.	External	June/July
Cycling	???	They acknowledged that the whole issue of revenue funding for maintenance of cycle paths in Copeland appears to be at an impasse and that until it is resolved, it is unlikely that any progress on future development will be made. Watching brief.	External	??

MONITOR /CHALLENGE

ITEM	MNTR/CHLGE	BACKGROUND	INT/EXT	TIMESCALE
Best Value Review of Economic Regeneration Phase II	Challenge OSC EC	They don't want to duplicate what is being done by the BVR Team. They would, however, like to feed into the debate on how Copeland defines its role in regeneration and to monitor and challenge other issues arising from the Review.	Internal	??
Tourism	Monitor OSC EC	They have already indicated that they would like to be kept abreast of all developments and initiatives in tourism as affects Copeland.	Internal /External	??
Sundry Debtors	Challenge	Outstanding Audit actions on sundry debtors, on the list for some time, has prompted members to ask for a full report on the issue of the processing of sundry debtors.	Internal	??
Fly Tipping	Monitor OSC Env	Members are aware that a Cumbria wide strategy is being discussed and would like to be kept abreast of developments which may also feed into their overview of enforcement generally.	Internal	May/June

ITEM	TYPE	BACKGROUND	INT/EXT	TIMESCALE
Transport Concession	Monitor OSC Soc	Members want to review the new voucher system to see whether it has achieved savings, and to examine the impact of the decision to give free bus travel to senior citizens.	Internal	Sep/Oct
Asset Management	Challenge OSC PR	Members are aware that the Asset Management Plan is ready for review. Equally, they want to make sure that officers are confident the asset management register is up-to-date and that there is no risk of the Council losing land by default.	Internal	??
Capital Strategy	Monitor OSC PR	Members are aware that the capital strategy is due for review and will wish to be consulted on any changes.	Internal	??
Benefits Fraud Inspectorate Report	Monitor/Challenge OSC PR	Members would like to see the full report and consider and monitor the action plan in more detail.	Internal	May
Food Safety Plan	Monitor OSC ENV	To monitor the food safety service plan.	Internal	??
Health and Safety Plan	Monitor OSC Soc	To monitor the health and safety service plan.	Internal	??
BVR Communications Improvement Plan	Challenge	Members want to take a close interest in the implementation of the Improvement Plan, in particular plans for better consultation and how Members might better feed views of their constituents into the process.	Internal	??

ITEM	TYPE	BACKGROUND	INT/EXT	TIMESCALE
Provision of street cleansing and refuse collection service	Challenge OSC Env	Members are concerned about the number of complaints that they themselves are dealing with about, in particular, the refuse service (missed bins etc). They want to monitor the performance of the service itself (not just recycling targets).	Internal	??
Nuclear Opportunities Group	Monitor OSC EC	Members want to be kept informed of all developments and receive regular briefings from the Manager of the Nuclear Opportunities Group.	External	23 May 2005 12 Sep 2005 6 March 2005
Government Strategic Forum	Monitor OSC EC	Members want to learn and keep abreast of initiatives, action plans and outcomes.	External	??
Huntsman/Rhodia	Monitor OSC EC	Members are aware that the Environment Agency has the lead role in the clean up and development of the site and want to be kept informed of progress.	External	??
Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership	Monitor OSC SOC	There has been a suggestion from the LSP that a joint scrutiny is undertaken (Districts and County) on the Safer, Stronger Communities Fund, which is a new way of delivering funding. Whether or not this is achieved, Members would like to examine how the fund is being spent for the benefit of Copeland.	External	??
Cleator Moor Single Regeneration Budget	Monitor/Challenge OSC EC	As this wraps up, Members would like to see an evaluation of the programme, including how the money was spent and how many jobs were created.	External	18 th July – Judith Brown (813536)

ITEM	TYPE	BACKGROUND	INT/EXT	TIMESCALE
Copeland Homes	Monitor OSC Soc	Members wish to receive a report annually on progress towards the decent homes standard in addition to the Chair and Vice Chair's participation in the liaison group.	External;	??
IDEA Review of Arts development - Action Plan	Monitor OSC Soc	IDEA undertook a review of Art development in 2004-05. Their final report – due to be issued shortly – has a number of action points which Members will wish to challenge and monitor.	Internal	??

POLICY DEVELOPMENT/WORKING GROUPS

ITEM	TYPE	BACKGROUND	INT/EXT	TIMESCALE
Bereavement Strategy	Working Group OSC Env	A sub group of Members is assisting in the development of a bereavement strategy	Internal	Delayed
Green Spaces Strategy	Working Group OSC Env	A sub group of Members is assisting in the development of a green spaces strategy.	Internal	Delayed
CCTV	Working Group OSC Soc	A sub group of Members is working with the Portfolio Holder and department on provision of CCTV.	Internal	Already started
IT	Working Group OSC PR	A sub group of Members is working with the Portfolio Holder and department on the future provision of IT services.	Internal	Ad hoc regularly
Audit	Working Group OSC PR	A sub group of Members provides quarterly monitoring.	Internal	Quarterly

