

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

### COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

#### WORKPLAN 2005-06

##### Introduction

The Work Plan of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees has been drawn together from a number of sources:

- From individual Members drawing on the experience they have as ward Councillors and their specialist interests.
- From Parish and Town Councils.
- From studying the Corporate Plan for the coming year and discussing work items with the Executive and Departments
- From individual members of the public, responding to publicity and from
- Media coverage relating to Council services.

It is intended to give a good idea of the ground the Committees will cover in the coming year. It is, however, an organic document and is subject to change and review as priorities change.

If there are any comments or contributions you might want to make to the Work Plan, then please do not hesitate to contact Scrutiny Support in the first instance:

01946 598496  
jmurray@copelandbc.gov.uk

## REVIEWS

| ITEM                          | REVIEWS                                            | BACKGROUND                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | INT/EXT               | TIMESCALE                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Section 106 agreements</b> | Pre-scrutiny →<br>Poss review<br><br><b>OSC EC</b> | 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<br>Pre-scrutiny briefing 18/7; report requested for 12/9 giving all section 106 agreements in past 12 months. Also CCC and LDNPA to be asked to do the same.                                                                                                          | Internal              | Conclusion: until there is a change in legislation, the guidance is pretty clear and seems to be followed by all authorities.                                                     |
| <b>Public Toilets</b>         | <b>REVIEW</b><br><br><b>OSC ENV</b>                | 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 | Report to 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec Executive.                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Budget Criteria</b>        | <b>REVIEW</b><br><br><b>OSC PR/EC</b>              | 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. | Internal              | Joint meeting of Exec and OSC Chairs and Vice Chairs agreed to delay a look at the budget criteria until the Council's role in regeneration is better defined – may be next year. |

## REVIEWS

| ITEM                         | REVIEWS                                     | BACKGROUND                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | INT/EXT                        | TIMESCALE                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Regeneration in West Cumbria | Pre-scrutiny<br>Poss REVIEW                 | The LSP Economic Well-being group has suggested a joint review of who is doing what on the regeneration front in West Cumbria.                                                                                                                                                 | Internal<br>↓<br>Poss external | Chris Collier, Chief Exec, Cumbria Vision attended special meeting 13/06/05 at 10.30am.<br><br>To be invited back in November to update Members further. |
| Enforcement                  | REVIEW<br>OSC ENV                           | Members want to take a very close look at enforcement as a whole. This will include all aspects, including dog fouling and car parking policy on issuing of fines. On car parking issues, OSC Economic to be invited to attend. Results may feed into the restructure review.. | Internal                       | Business Plan presented October 2005. Progress to be reviewed June 2006.                                                                                 |
| Restructure 6 mths +         | REVIEW<br>OSC PR - Lead                     | 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.                                                                                                         |                                | OSC PR Sub group to meet 10 <sup>th</sup> November                                                                                                       |
| Leisure Opening Hours        | Pre-scrutiny →<br>Poss Review<br>OSC Social | 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                       | July meeting – recommended that a pilot be carried out into opening on a bank holiday.                                                                   |
| New Councillors              | Review/OSC<br>PR                            | What do other Councils do to attract a more diverse range of candidates and what more could Copeland do?                                                                                                                                                                       | Internal                       | Report to January OSC                                                                                                                                    |

| ITEM                               | REVIEWS                                                          | BACKGROUND                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | INT/EXT  | TIMESCALE                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dentists</b>                    | <b>REVIEW</b><br><b>OSC SOC</b>                                  | 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 | County Council feels this is a national problem and are not inclined to follow it up other than monitoring the situation. |
| <b>Schools in Copeland</b>         | <b>Pre-scrutiny</b><br>→<br><b>Poss Review</b><br><b>OSC SOC</b> | 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 <u>some</u> of the data was unreliable. However, most results were largely predictable and placed a good deal of emphasis on the quality of schools, equally of local importance. 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 | Delayed as CCC Director of Education resigned.<br><br>School improvement team invited to the November meeting.            |
| <b>School dinners</b>              | <b>Pre-scrutiny</b><br>→<br><b>Poss Review</b>                   | 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 | CCC Education have followed up on this quite strongly and it is felt that there is no need for further review.            |
| <b>Review of Conference budget</b> |                                                                  | How should the available money be spent for conference attendance by Members.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |          | Report in January                                                                                                         |

# MONITOR /CHALLENGE

| ITEM                 | MNTR/CHLGE          | BACKGROUND                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | INT/EXT               | TIMESCALE                                                                                   |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tourism              | Monitor<br>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<br>/External | To monitor review being carried out by Portfolio Holder.                                    |
| 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              | Audit has now removed this item from outstanding actions – do Members still want to pursue? |
| Fly Tipping          | Monitor<br>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              |                                                                                             |
| Transport Concession | Monitor<br>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<br>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              | January                                                                                     |

## MONITOR /CHALLENGE

| ITEM                                | TYPE                            | BACKGROUND                                                                                                                                                                                                         | INT/EXT  | TIMESCALE                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------------|
| Benefits Fraud Inspectorate Report  | Monitor/<br>Challenge<br>OSC PR | Members would like to see the full report and consider and monitor the action plan in more detail.                                                                                                                 | Internal | May<br>November                           |
| Food Safety Plan                    | Monitor<br>OSC ENV              | To monitor the food safety service plan.                                                                                                                                                                           | Internal | March                                     |
| Health and Safety Plan              | Monitor<br>OSC Soc              | To monitor the health and safety service plan.                                                                                                                                                                     | Internal | February                                  |
| 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 | When Communications Manager is appointed. |
| Copeland Homes                      | Monitor<br>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, and the standard of maintenance and repairs. | External |                                           |

# **MONITOR /CHALLENGE**

| ITEM                                                               | TYPE                                      | BACKGROUND                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | INT/EXT  | TIMESCALE                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Provision of street cleansing and refuse collection service</b> | <b>Challenge</b><br><b>OSC Env</b>        | 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 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> September                                                               |
| <b>Nuclear Opportunities Group</b>                                 | <b>Monitor</b><br><b>OSC EC</b>           | 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<br>12 Sep 2005<br>6 March 2005                                              |
| <b>Government Strategic Forum</b>                                  | <b>Monitor</b><br><b>OSC EC</b>           | Members want to learn and keep abreast of initiatives, action plans and outcomes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | External | September                                                                               |
| <b>Huntsman/Rhodia</b>                                             | <b>Monitor</b><br><b>OSC EC</b>           | Members want to monitor the plans for clean up of the site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | External |                                                                                         |
| <b>Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership</b>                    | <b>Monitor</b><br><b>OSC SOC</b>          | 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 |                                                                                         |
| <b>Cleator Moor Single Regeneration Budget</b>                     | <b>Monitor/Challenge</b><br><b>OSC EC</b> | 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 <sup>th</sup> July – Judith Brown (813536)<br>7 <sup>th</sup> November – Tim Knowles |

### MONITOR /CHALLENGE

|                                                      |                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                    |                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Supporting People Strategy</b>                    | <b>Poss joint review with County OSC SOC</b> | 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 | County scrutiny panel has deferred 2006. |
| <b>IDEA Review of Arts development - Action Plan</b> | <b>Monitor OSC Soc</b>                       | 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           | November                                 |

### POLICY DEVELOPMENT/WORKING GROUPS

| ITEM                         | TYPE                         | BACKGROUND                                                                                                         | INT/EXT  | TIMESCALE                         |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Bereavement Strategy</b>  | <b>Working Group</b>         | A sub group of Members is assisting in the development of a bereavement strategy                                   | Internal | Delayed – now October             |
| <b>Green Spaces Strategy</b> | <b>OSC Env Working Group</b> | A sub group of Members is assisting in the development of a green spaces strategy.                                 | Internal | Delayed – now October             |
| <b>CCTV</b>                  | <b>OSC Env Working Group</b> | A sub group of Members is working with the Portfolio Holder and department on provision of CCTV.                   | Internal | Interim Report to Exec July 2005. |
| <b>IT</b>                    | <b>OSC Soc Working Group</b> | A sub group of Members is working with the Portfolio Holder and department on the future provision of IT services. | Internal | Ad hoc                            |
| <b>Audit</b>                 | <b>OSC PR Working Group</b>  | A sub group of Members provides quarterly monitoring.                                                              | Internal | Quarterly                         |