

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PROFILE & PARTNERSHIPS
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE: MONDAY, 28 MAY 2012
REPORT BY: MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER
SUBJECT: WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE COMMITTEE

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to identify a work programme through the identification of appropriate topics from within the Terms of Reference

2.00 BACKGROUND

This Committee was originally formed in September 2010 following a review of the Overview & Scrutiny committee structure and in response to the need of the organisation to have a Scrutiny Committee which was able to engage with public service providers, embrace the new powers of external scrutiny in the Local Government Measure 2011 and provide a focus of the ongoing work with our external partners.

The Committee is the Authority's designated statutory Crime & Disorder Committee which is a requirement of the Crime & Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny Regulations) 2009.

The Terms of Reference of the Committee area as follows:-

- Community Strategy & Leadership Initiatives
- All External and Regional Collaboration and Partnership working with other Public Service Bodies
- The Local Service Board
- The Regional Safer Communities Board
- Statutory Crime & Disorder Committee
- Voluntary Sector Compact
- Cross Cutting Policy issues
- The Outcome Agreement

It should be noted that the Terms of Reference do not include issues specifically remitted to other Committees e.g. North Wales Regional Waste Treatment, TAITH etc.

In dealing with the above issues it is envisaged that the Committee will have strong internal working links with the Leader, Deputy

Leader, the Executive Member for Corporate Management, the Chief Executive, the Directors and many of the Heads of Service. This does not mean that all of those identified would be expected to attend every meeting: it is suggested that key contributors be invited to attend specific meetings.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

Following on from the last 18 months experience, externally there will be links with the North Wales Police Authority, the North Wales Police, the Fire and Rescue Authority, Glyndwr University, Deeside College, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (in relation to public health issues) and many other public bodies.

A protocol on the topics to be considered by Council was approved by Group Leaders in the Autumn of 2009. The purpose of the protocol is to ensure that presentations are made to the appropriate part of the organisation and will assist us in managing both some of the external relationships and the time available for Council meetings. This means that some presentations which were in the past being made to Council would naturally fall to this Committee. A copy of that protocol is attached as Appendix A.

The dates on which the Committee has been scheduled to meet during the current municipal year are as follows:-

Monday 28th May 2012 at 10.00 am
Monday 25th June 2012 at 10.00 am
Monday 16th July 2012 at 10.00 am
Thursday 6th September 2012 at 10.00 am
Monday 15th October 2012 at 10.00 am
Monday 26th November 2012 at 10.00 am
Monday 7th January 2013 at 10.00 am
Monday 4th February 2013 at 10.00 am
Monday 11th March 2013 at 10.00 am
Monday 22nd April 2013 at 10.00 am
Monday 20th May 2013 at 10.00 am

The scheduling of a meeting does not mean that a meeting has to be held on that occasion; sometimes because of the specific needs of an external organisation, it will be necessary to hold special meetings, and thus scheduled meetings may not need to be held.

The organisation of such meetings has previously been remitted to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee together with the Member Engagement Manager and it is suggested that this approach be continued.

There are 15 elected Members on the Committee, but it is also recommended that those Members who represent Flintshire on either the Police Authority (for the time being) and subsequently the Police and Crime Panel, and the Fire and Rescue Authority, and who are not already named Members of the Committee be co-opted for meetings when Crime and Disorder issues are considered. This would continue a practice adopted by the former Committee.

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 has opened the way for Local Authorities to external scrutiny on a statutory basis (Section 59 “scrutinising designated persons”). However Guidance as to designated persons has not yet been issued. The Committee has previously utilised more general powers available to it under the Local Government Act 2000 (Section 21 (ii) (e)) A mutually beneficial relationship between the Committee and those external bodies has been established.

We are now at the start of a five year term for the Council, and it is suggested that in the first few months of this Committee’s life it would be beneficial to renew knowledge of and relationships with our key partners. This could be achieved by inviting a partner to attend each meeting to provide the key notes item.

By adopting such an approach, Members would be able to consider the issues which they would wish to explore with the partners later on and thus frame questions for them. As a matter of good practice, when engaging with external partners, Members would be asked to formulate questions in advance which can be forwarded to that external partner to give them “a feel” of the Committee’s interests and thus be able to tailor any presentation or information which they put forward. Obviously Members would be able to ask supplementary questions at Committees.

Thus the Committee is invited to consider whether it would like the Member Engagement Manager to approach the North Wales Police Force, the Fire and Rescue Service and Fire and Rescue Authority, Glyndwr University, Deeside College and the Flintshire Voluntary Services Council to attend future meetings.

Members will probably be aware that items on scrutiny agendas are from a number of sources; individual member requests, Committee decisions, organisational needs – such as consultations on policy development – and through Officer suggestions. Therefore it is suggested that as in the practice with the other Overview & Scrutiny Committees the work programme be submitted to each future meeting.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the approach for developing the Committee's work programme, outlined above, be approved with the Chair and Vice Chair along with the Member Engagement Manager being authorised to act between meetings to develop it further.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None directly from this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

None directly from this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

None directly from this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

None directly from this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

None directly from this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

To be determined

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

Publication of this report initiates consultation

12.00 APPENDICES

Protocol

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Contact Officer:	Robert Robins
Telephone:	01352 702320
Email:	Robert.robins@flintshire.gov.uk

