

Meeting Date	Wednesday 4 August 2010
Report Title	Work Programme for 2010/11
Portfolio Holder	-
SMT Lead	Louise Matthews
Head of Service	Louise Matthews
Lead Officer	Bob Pullen
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open
Forward Plan	-

Recommendations	1. To decide which reviews the Committee wants to take forward in 2010/11.

Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

1.1 This report invites the Committee to consider its work programme for 2010/11.

2 Background

2.1 Two of the Committee's reviews which commenced last year are ongoing. The review on "*How do we improve the decisions the Council makes?*" is being discussed under Agenda Item ?. The review on Culture, Tourism and Leisure, is considered below as part of this years work programme.

2.2 The Committee had an initial discussion on possible review topics at its meeting on 16 June. The topics which Members considered included (in no particular order):

- Night time economy (linked to the existing review on Culture, Tourism and Leisure);
- Devolution V Localism: How do we deliver better public services for the future?
- Energy use: energy poverty; energy efficiency of new housing; offshore wind farms;

- How should the Council ensure that it meets its obligations in respect of life-time homes? and
- How well prepared is Swale BC, its partners and its residents for adverse weather conditions?

2.3 A further topic was also discussed at the meeting on 16 June in respect of recycling. However, it was noted that recycling performance was being considered by the Scrutiny Committee and the Member who had expressed an interest in this topic had made contact with the review co-ordinator.

2.4 The Committee will want to consider which of the above topics to take forward as policy reviews this year while having regard to:

- the ability to ideally complete reviews within the current municipal year;
- the possibility of establishing Task and Finish Groups comprised of a small number of Members, including non-Executive Members who are not members of Policy Overview, to progress work outside of the normal cycle of Policy Overview meetings; and
- support from myself to eg. undertake research, produce briefing papers and reports, organise meetings and focus groups etc.

2.5 The Committee may also want to take into account the Coalition Government's emerging policy agenda and the implications of that for the Council and/or Swale. The key areas which could have the biggest impact include:

- Governance (eg. new general power of competence for councils);
- Housing and Planning (eg. introduction of a consolidated national planning framework which devolves planning decisions down to local communities);
- Environment (eg. developing a new generation of offshore windpower); and
- Community (eg. 'Big Society' agenda; creation and expansion of mutuals, co-operatives, charities and social enterprises to run public services).

3 Proposal

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- o Decide which reviews it wants to take forward in 2010/11.

4 Alternative Options

4.1 No alternative options have been considered.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 No consultation undertaken at this stage. The Committee will want to consider who is consulted on its draft work programme for 2010/11 (eg. the Executive).

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The work of the Committee is likely to have implications for all four Corporate Priorities.
Financial, Resource and Property	None identified at this stage.
Legal and Statutory	None at this stage.
Crime and Disorder	None at this stage.
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None at this stage.
Equality and Diversity	None at this stage.
Sustainability	None at this stage.

7 Appendices

7.1 There are no appendices.

8 Background Papers

8.1 There are no background papers.