

Norwich City Council

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT for meeting to be held on 13 November 2008

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

- Summary:** This report provides members with their current Work Programme and ongoing information of Scrutiny Issues.
- The Scrutiny Work Programme is attached and the Executive Forward Agenda is also attached for information.
- Conclusions:** The Scrutiny Committee is requested to note the Scrutiny Committee Work Programme and agree any amendments as required. In considering any future issues for scrutiny it is suggested that members pay attention to what already exists on their Work Programme, and that when identifying any further scrutiny work, regard be given to the timescale required, this is particularly relevant to any potential pre – scrutiny items.
- Recommendation:** The Work Programme be noted and any further amendments made if required
- Contact Officer:** **Scrutiny Officer** – 01603 212491
stevegoddard@norwich.gov.uk

1. Financial Inclusion, Debt Advisory Services and Credit Unions

- 1.1 As reported at your last meeting and discussed with the Leader of the Council, work around this topic is welcomed especially regarding its relation to the Council's Corporate Plan; Opportunities for all – short term priorities and actions (page 21), to develop a financial inclusion strategy – this will include analysing data about deprivation and disadvantage and examining and strengthening money advice services; the Go 4less scheme, expanding credit unions and reducing energy costs.
- 1.2 Also South Norfolk Council - Scrutiny Committee are to consider this issue at their 17 December meeting. The Scrutiny Officer at SNC welcomes the possibility of some form of joint working regarding what could become quite an important, topical and wide ranging review. South Norfolk are particularly interested in investigating the factors which can lead to problem debt. I will be able to report back to you in January on how the SNC Committee wish to proceed regarding any joint work. It is suggested that as a Committee, you can then consider whether or not the work you wish to carry out has a relation to what SNC are proposing to do. The Officers can then liaise to assist members to work together.

2. Task and Finish Groups

- 2.1 **The Cycling Task and Finish Group** is due to have its initial meeting for scoping on 4 November at 5.30 pm in the Wymer Room. The Members on this Task and Finish Group are; Keith Driver, Claire Stephenson and Samir Jeraj. With the agreement of Claire Stephenson in her capacity as Chair of Scrutiny, Judith Lubbock has been co opted onto the Group also. Officer assisting – Andy Watt.
- 2.2 **The Allotments Task and Finish Group** - At the time of this report being written, the Scrutiny Officer is unable to confirm a date for the first meeting of this Task and Finish Group. The possible dates are 17 or 20 November. The Members on this Task and Finish Group are; Janet Bearman, Peter Offord and Mary Cannell. Officers assisting – Bob Cronk and Simon Meek.
- 2.3 **The City Centre Toilet Provision Task and Finish Group** – will be meeting for the first time on 3 November at 5.00pm in the Earlham Room. The members for this Task and Finish Group are; Roy Blower, David Bradford and Brian Watkins. Officers assisting – Carol Marney, Chris Dady, John Reid, and Stefan Gurney (City Centre Partnership).

3. Norwich City Environmental Strategy 2008/2010

- 3.1 At the 15 October meeting of the Executive the amendments resulting from the pre Scrutiny on 9 October were agreed and included in the document.