
ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
WORK PROGRAMME 2011/12

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the work programme items scheduled to be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the current Municipal Year and to develop the Terms of Reference for those topics.

Summary

2. Members will recall that, at the last meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 13th September, 2011, a discussion was held and agreement reached on areas which this Scrutiny Committee would like to focus its work over the current Municipal Year.
3. Following that decision, Terms of Reference (**Appendix 1**) for the topic area has been developed as a working document for Members consideration.

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that Members consider the attached Terms of Reference, make any amendments thereto, and give formal approval to the topic area.

Paul Wildsmith,
Director of Resources

Background Papers

There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

Claire Hutton : Extension 2364

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This report has no direct implications to the Health and Well Being of residents of Darlington.
Carbon Impact	There are no issues which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal.
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Group is considered to be minimal.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The report contributes to the Sustainable Community Strategy in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the five themes.
Efficiency	The Work Programmes are integral to scrutinising and monitoring services efficiently (and effectively), however this report does not identify specific efficiency savings.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. All Members are aware of the ambitious programme of change across the Council including changes to the remits of the five Scrutiny Committees. A key role of Scrutiny is to ensure that the programme is able to deliver the service improvements and the budget savings necessary and Members need to take this into account when considering their work programmes and ensure that any work focuses on delivering outcomes rather than service delivery.
6. Taking the above into account, at the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 13th September, 2011, Members agreed to establish a task and finish review group to assist with and examine the Housing Benefit Reforms and Terms of Reference (**Appendix 1**) has been developed for this piece of work to demonstrate how Scrutiny will undertake the work and what the anticipated outcome may be.
7. The Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee is therefore requested to consider the attached Terms of Reference and make any amendments or comments thereon, prior to approval.
8. If, during the course of the year, Members wish to add any topics to the above, taking into account the comments in paragraph 5, a Quad of Aims will need to be developed and submitted prior to the item being brought to Scrutiny Committee, to ensure that it does contribute to the strategic aims of the Council.
9. Members are also requested to consider Cabinet's Forward Plan, which is available on the Council's website, to assist in determining any further items which they might wish to include on their work programme.