

SCRUTINY COMMITTEES WORK PLAN

Amber – Currently under scrutiny/ongoing scrutiny topic

Green – Scrutiny complete but to remain on work plan

No Colour – Awaiting scrutiny

ACTIVE AND COHESIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Title	Forward Plan Item?	Scrutiny Method	Progress to Date	Expected Completion Date	Expected Outcomes/Date for Progress to be Assessed
Review of Grants & Third Sector Commissioning Framework (AMBER)	Yes – previously considered by Cabinet	Full Committee	Agreed on 14.06.2012 that Cabinet be informed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee positive re recs. • Needs of Borough residents be given top priority with regards to tendering exercise. • Further reports be received when bidding process complete. Cabinet agreed in principle, A & C will be consulted further before final decision made. A & C to revisit later in year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern raised 06.09.12 re funding for Coalfield Alliance mining wards. Assurance requested that coalfield regen money would go to these areas & not in collective pot at SCC. Appears to go directly to CAB, not through NBC. • Report re Public Sector in Partnership expected Mar 2013 		
Bateswood Consultation Process (GREEN)	Yes – previously considered by Cabinet	Working Group: Cllr Cairns Cllr J. Cooper Cllr Lawton Cllr Wilkes Cllr G. Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Visit on 11th May. • WG met 23.05.12. • Meeting with interested parties 27.06.2012. • A & C considered wg recs 06.09.12, agreed recs to be put forward for Cabinet to consider. • Cabinet resolved 17.10.12 to adopt wg recs. 		Would the Committee like to revisit this at some point in the future?
Draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy (AMBER)		Currently with Health Scrutiny	Coord resolved strategy should remain with Health. Small wg at SCC incl. Cllr Eastwood. Special meeting at SCC to discuss.		
Leisure Trust Options		TBC	Outline business case being established, models being investigated. May be community interest company rather than leisure trust option. Expected in the new year.		
Allotments Service (AMBER)	Yes – previously considered by Cabinet	Working Group: Cllr Bailey Cllr Cairns Cllr John Cooper Cllr Walklate Cllr Winfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to Cabinet 30.11.11 agreed review be carried out. • Cabinet considered 14.11.12. A & C to undertake review of identified issues. Cabinet report & how scrutiny to proceed considered at Dec meeting. • Working group set up, 1st meeting to be arranged for mid Jan. 		

		Cllr G. Williams			
Community Centre Review (AMBER)	Yes – previously considered by Cabinet	Working Group set up by Coord	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet request Coord set up wg to shadow officer wg. • Wg set up with first meeting 31.10.2012. 		
Kidsgrove Sports Centre (GREEN)	Yes – previously considered by Cabinet	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guarantee to be requested that regular inspections will be carried out in future. • More unexpected closures can't be ruled out due to condition of building. • Cabinet received update 14.11.12 – centre to re-open 17.11.12. 		
Local Sporting Opportunities & Achievements	No	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed as possible topic at Sept meeting. • Report of current sports development activities in Borough received 13.12.12. A & C impressed with work already being undertaken. Resolved to consider how to involve more young people in sport at a future date. • A 'virtual school of sports' could be the way forward. 		

MEMBERS SUGGESTIONS FOR SCRUTINY TOPICS

Suggested by:

Suggestion for Scrutiny Topic:

CLEANER, GREENER AND SAFER COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Title	Forward Plan Item?	Scrutiny Method	Progress to Date/Actions from last Meeting	Expected Completion Date	Expected Outcomes/Date for Progress to be Assessed
Alcohol Strategy (AMBER)		Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trevor Smith update at each meeting. • Regular updates for the revised action plan. • Presentation on National Alcohol Strat & how affects local issues at Sept meeting (Trevor Smith) • Update re Cheshire East alcohol pricing & alcohol action plan received 05.12.12. 		
Waste & Recycling Strategy	Yes – previously considered by Cabinet	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Panel approved at Cabinet 17.10.2012. • Scrutiny will receive after Cabinet Panel. 		
Development of a Safer & Stronger Communities Strategy for NUL (AMBER)	Yes – previously considered		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGS considered updated strategy and action plan 05.09.2012 and were supportive. 		

	by Cabinet		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy approved by Cabinet 14.11.2012 		
Policing in Kidsgrove & Rural Areas (GREEN)	No	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add. meeting 30.07.12. C.I. Hulme attended. Opportunity for questions/suggestions from Members, Police to attend future meeting to update CGS after move into Kidsgrove Town Hall. • Cl. Hulme attended 05.12.12. Provided updates re moves in Kidsgrove & Civic Offices & how policing will look in Kidsgrove & rural areas in the future. Asked to attend a future meeting. 		
Magistrates Courts Move – Fenton to Newcastle (AMBER)	No	Officer Partner Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners invited 05.09.12 to consider the move. Court rep unable to attend – officer partner wg set up to monitor move. • 2nd meeting of WG 28.11.12. Agreed that a newsletter re the move be distributed to local businesses – distributed early Dec. • It was agreed to have regular updates. 		
Warm Zone Delivery of Green Deal (AMBER)	Yes	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CGS supported continuing as is, a resounding success. • Cabinet resolved 17.10.12 that Council continues support to maximise uptake of funds & that officers discuss level of funding required with Warm Zone with view to funding being allocated as part of Housing Capital Programme alongside 2013/14 budget setting process. 		
Newcastle Partnerships Structure (AMBER)			Update provided at meeting on 05.09.2012.		

MEMBERS SUGGESTIONS FOR SCRUTINY TOPICS

Suggested by:

Suggestion for Scrutiny Topic:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Title	Forward Plan Item?	Scrutiny Method	Progress to Date/Actions from last Meeting	Expected Completion Date	Expected Outcomes/Date for Progress to be Assessed
Economic Development Strategy (GREEN)	Yes – previously considered by Cabinet	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet agreed strategy & 1st year action plan 23.05.12 • Feedback & progress on action plan poss end Q4 or Q1 13/14 		Feedback & progress on action plan poss end Q4 or Q1 13/14
The S-O-T & Staffs LEP (AMBER)	No	Working Group:	Receiving summary paper. Will meet as/when required.		

		Cllrs Matthews, Peers & Studd			
Broadband Provision (AMBER)		County Council Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeanette Hilton to attend working group & feedback to EDE. Re-scoping required. WG need to define what needs to be scrutinised & where they would like to go with it. 		
High Speed 2 Limited (AMBER)	Yes – previously considered by Cabinet	Working Group: Cllr Becket Cllr Loades Cllr Cairns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 04.07.2012 - wg resolved to recommend: 1) continue stance to object, but should it take place then local station should be provided 2) EDE (through WG) continue to scrutinise & meet when consultation stage begins 3) highlight to Cabinet consultation due to begin in Autumn. Cabinet resolved 18.07.2012: 1) modify Council stance to offer support for principle of HS2 as long as potential economic benefits for N. Staffs could be demonstrated to outweigh environmental consequences & whether such benefits would be derived from local station to serve area. 2) EDE continue to monitor through wg, wg to reconvene when consultation begins. Update provided to EDE 17.09.2012. Still awaiting consultation as at 07.12.12, however stance on Dept of Transport & HS2 websites has changed to 'early 2013 engagement programme on phase 2 initial preferred route'. 		
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) (AMBER)	Yes	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report received 19.12.12 with supplementary update informing EDE of implications of new government guidance. EDE resolved to receive a report in April 2013 following consultation of the draft charging scheme. 		
Staffordshire Strategic Assets Review (GREEN)	Yes	Full Committee	Report discussed 21.06.2012. To be considered at Jan Cabinet with Asset Management Strategy.		
Asset Management Strategy (GREEN)	Yes	Full Committee	Report received by EDE 19.12.12.		
Town Centre Partnerships Development (AMBER)	Yes – previously considered by Cabinet	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update report for 2nd round Portas Pilot bid on 17.09.2012. Update 19.12.12 clarifying status of TCP incl. appointment of Town Centre Manager, funding update & key priorities. EDE requested regular updates & timetable & calendar of movements be provided. 		
Town Centre Initiatives for Vacant Shops (AMBER)	No	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair & vice-Chair met with officers to discuss town centre initiatives for vacant shops 06.09.12. Briefing note provided 17.09.12 to update EDE. EDE comments to be considered by Portfolio Holder & Officers Officer briefing note re pop-up emporium initiative 19.12.12 		
Former St Giles and St Georges	Yes – previously	To be decided, possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recs for Cabinet 28.06.12: EDE would support further investigation of combination of options 'A' & 'C'. 'B' should be 		

(AMBER)	considered by Cabinet	working party	discounted completely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconsidered 17.09.12. Museum resiting still considered desirable. Indoor market suggested. EDE remain opposed to demolition but would be less hostile if could be satisfied replacement would be correct scale & design. Likely value of cleared site, costs of indoor market & museum requested. More info required before preferred option can be offered. Cabinet agreed option A (market bldg again in current condition) 17.10.12. Requested Officers look into option 'e' (use site for housing). Open item for EDE while waiting for decision, can discuss without referring back to Cabinet. 		
Knutton Recreation Centre (GREEN)	Yes – previously considered by Cabinet	To be decided, possible working party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional meeting 28.07.2012. Recs to be passed to Sept Cabinet. Will be brought back to Committee if necessary. 		
Town Centre Car Parking (AMBER)		Working Group: Cllrs Baker, Peers, Studd & M. Taylor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leader request to investigate & consider potential options that may exist to improve current arrangements Scrutiny brief for 17.09.12. WG formed – 2nd meeting 24.10.2012. Interim report expected. 		
N/C Town Centre Public Realm Project (AMBER)	Yes	Working Group: Cllr Baker Cllr Cairns Cllr Holland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WG met 24.10.12. EDE considered 22.11.12. EDE expressed some concerns, passed to Cabinet. Await outcome of Cabinet on 12.12.12. Request for review 12 months after implementation – dependent on Cabinet decision 		Request for review 12 months after implementation – dependent on Cabinet's decision.
Empty Homes Strategy	Yes	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report provided for consideration on 17.09.2012. Being considered by Cabinet 12.12.12. 		
Home Improvement Agency Services	Yes	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report/scrutiny brief to Committee – expected 19.12.12. More likely report will be ready in early spring given complexity of partnership arrangements. Service currently provided by Revival, options to be reviewed incl. county wide service or NBC standing alone to provide. 		
Housing Capital Programme 2013/14	Yes	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider the allocation of funding, particularly from New Homes Bonus funds to deliver housing priorities ensuring that the most vulnerable residents receive support. Report received by EDE 19.12.12. 		
Newcastle Housing Advice (NHA) – Homelessness, Housing Options & Housing Register Contract Retendering Exercise	Yes	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation in March 2014 Overview of retendering exercise will be provided March 2013. 		

MEMBERS SUGGESTIONS FOR SCRUTINY TOPICS

Suggested by:	Suggestion for Scrutiny Topic:

TRANSFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Title	Forward Plan Item?	Scrutiny Method	Progress to Date/Actions from last Meeting	Expected Completion Date	Expected Outcomes/Date for Progress to be Assessed
Revenue and Capital Budget (AMBER)	Yes	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report 03.09.2012 - timetable & process of budget scrutiny explained – T & R happy with budget setting timetable. Finance & budget training sessions taking place. Consultation process update 10.12.12 - request consideration be given to starting process earlier & undertaken in 2 stages with 1st stage in June – comments to Cabinet 12.12.12. Update received 10.12.12 informing T & R of current proposals to balance 2013/14 revenue budget. T & R requested a link be sent to the current Capital Strategy & that future reports make clear where the document differs from the existing strategy. 		Scrutiny undertaken annually by T & R.
Capital Strategy	Yes	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received 10.12.12. T & R requested further info re Revenue Investment Fund, clarification of staffing efficiencies referred to in report & questioned Community Chest grants & budget cuts. The comments were fed back to Cabinet on 12.12.12. 		Scrutiny undertaken annually by T & R.
Treasury Management Strategy	Yes	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considered 19.11.12. T & R supportive of strategy & recommendation on report. 		Scrutiny undertaken annually by T & R.
Scale of Fees & Charges	Yes	Full Committee	To be considered by T & R 24.01.2013.		Scrutiny undertaken annually by T & R.
Financial and Performance Management Report (GREEN)		Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to monitor & scrutinise performance alongside finances & that quarterly reports are provided to T & R. To include J2 figures (income over target). Quarter 3 report expected 24.01.2013. Leader to provide update 24.01.2013 re street & environment cleanliness figures, with explanation of reasons for increase. 		Report received on a rolling quarterly basis.
Flexible Working for NBC Employees (AMBER)		Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee to receive regular updates. Update provided Sept 2012 – next update March 2013 		Update expected March 2013.
Review of the Constitution (AMBER)		Working Group:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To remain as a living doc to be kept under review. Request to be put on website as PDF with search facilities. 		

		Cllr Shenton Cllr Holland Cllr Snell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WG met 07.11.2012. Update received 19.11.2012. 		
Modernisation of the Post Office Network	No	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider the modernisation of the Post Office network & the possibility of partnership working. Rep from PO attended 19.11.2012, gave presentation. Awaiting LGA work before making decision to proceed. 		
Universal Credit			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can expect update at the March meeting 		
Asset Management Strategy	Yes	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overlaps EDE & T & R – both committees to consider T & R to considered report 10.12.12. 		
Council Plan 2013-14 to 2015-16	Yes – to be added when next published	Full Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be considered on 24.01.2013 prior to Cabinet in Feb. 		

MEMBERS SUGGESTIONS FOR SCRUTINY TOPICS

Suggested by:

Suggestion for Scrutiny Topic:

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Title	Method of Scrutiny	Progress to Date/Actions from last Meeting	Expected Completion Date
Consultation on Mental Health Services (AMBER)	Full Committee	That consideration of this matter be deferred to a special meeting of the committee to be convened in consultation with the Chairman and that in the meantime a copy of the consultation document be forwarded to all members of the committee.	
Fit For the Future and move of the Accident and Emergency Centre (AMBER)	Full Committee	<p>That UHNS be congratulated on the improvement in the figures for unexpected deaths and in securing the Major Trauma contract for Wales.</p> <p>That the responses to the questions tabled at the meeting be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>That the County Council be contracted regarding organising a follow up visit to the A&E department.</p>	
Cardiac Rehabilitation Response to County Council Health Scrutiny Report regarding phase IV	Full Committee	<p>That every effort be made to secure an early start date for the programme.</p> <p>That Staffordshire County Council be advised of the delay in commencing the programme and that the Chairman of this committee be asked to raise the issue at the next meeting of the County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee.</p>	

Cardiac Rehabilitation (AMBER)			
Health and Wellbeing Strategy (AMBER)	Full Committee	<p>A update was provided to the Committee from the Executive Director for Operational Services.</p> <p>The Council would continue to work on its on Strategy.</p> <p>Request from Active and Cohesive Committee that the Coordinating Committee considers the best way to scrutinise this topic - Coordinating Committee resolved the strategy should remain with Health Scrutiny, but that a working group could include Members of Active & Cohesive Scrutiny Committee</p>	
Health and wellbeing Board (AMBER)	Full Committee	It had been agreed to increase elected member representation on the Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board to two. Discussions were ongoing between this Council and Stoke and Staffordshire Moorlands with regard to the nomination of that additional member to represent the north of the county.	
Phlebotomy Services (AMBER)	Full Committee	A report was submitted seeking answers to a large number of questions and it was agreed that these be forwarded to the PCT with a request that answers be provided in time for inclusion in the agenda for the next scheduled meeting.	
Prescription Medication (AMBER)	Staffordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee	The County would look into this issue following request from this Committee.	
Infant Mortality (AMBER)	Full Committee following a request from the County Council Health Scrutiny Committee.	<p>That the Council's partnership Manager be requested to submit a report to the next meeting regarding her attendance at the Joint Steering Group and progress made by that Group.</p> <p>That dependent upon the above report, the committee give further consideration to its position on this issue at its next meeting.</p>	