

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SHADOW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

13 AUGUST 2009

Draft Work Programme – Assessment of Projects**1. Method of assessment**

The following checklist has been used to prioritise items for consideration by the Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

The checklist is broken down into two parts: an initial assessment to establish which items should be taken forward for further consideration and a scoring system to “weight” those items in terms of their importance.

Stage 1

Items are assessed against the set criteria to establish which items should be taken forward for further consideration and which should be rejected.

Potential criteria for selecting Items	✓ or ✗
There is a clear objective or achievement in reviewing the topic which adds public value	
The activity is timely as part of a wider process	
The issue is strategic and significant	
There is clear evidence to support the need for review (external audit/ public dissatisfaction)	
There are clear benefits to the Council and its customers from reviewing the topic	
There is public interest in the issue provided in media or surgeries	
This is a Council corporate priority	
This is a central Government priority	
There is a pattern of budgetary overspend or consistent poor performance	
There is new Government legislation or guidance attributed to this area.	
There are key reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on the issue	

Potential criteria for rejecting Items	✓ or ✗
The objective can not be achieved within the timescale	
There is no scope for the Committee to make a difference	
Issue dealt with by Committee less than 2 years ago	

Issue is being dealt with by another Committee/ Panel/ Working group etc...	
There is new government legislation or guidance expected on this item within the next year	

Stage 2

Each item is given a weighted score according to its importance ([5] major [3] significant [1] Minimal) or simply yes (5) or no (0). It is then prioritised on the basis of its total score.

Potential criteria for selecting Items	
NB: 5: Major, 3: Significant, 1: Minimal	
The level of value added through consideration of the item	
Amount of concern to local communities	
Level of strategic importance	
Impact on Council expenditure	
Level of performance concerns	

NB: 5: Yes, 0: No	
There is new Government legislation or guidance attributed to this area	
This is a Council priority	
There are key reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on the issue	
Referred from another Committee or Panel	

Total :

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*Adapted from Eden District Council

2. Assessments

The following items have been agreed with the Corporate Director, Children Services. They have not been scored as they are considered priority items.

Achievement and Standards Report	Timescale
An overview of the outcomes achieved by children in schools in Milton Keynes. Two reports to be received in October and February: the first with the unvalidated data and the second with the validated data.	Two separate reports: October '09 & February 10
Review of the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children's Board	
The Committee will receive the annual report of the Board. To be presented by the outgoing Chair.	September '09
Every Child Matters Programme	
The Committee will receive separate reports on the five outcome of the Every Child Matters programme. The "Stay Safe" element will be picked up from the work of the Safeguarding Children's Board but will be presented as a separate report to the Board's annual report.	TBC
Children and Young People's Plan	
The Plan is currently being written. It is important that there is consistency in the way the Plan is reported to the Committee, the Children's Trust and the DCSF Improvement Board.	September '09
DCSF Improvement Plan	
The Year One implementation of the Children and Young People's Plan.	TBC

What is Wellbeing?	Source	Timescale
Wellbeing is a cross-cutting issue but Members will be asked to consider its significance from a social care transformation perspective. This work would neatly flow into a more detailed study of the Social Care Reform Plan which was received as an information item at the last SC&H PDC meeting (22 July 2009). Members could then undertake a more detailed analysis of the plan identifying specific areas of interest. This work would lend itself to a small review group which could be seen as a “champion” for the social care reform agenda.	SC&H Planning Group/PDC Recommendations	This work is ongoing but early involvement welcomed
NB: 5: Major, 3: Significant, 1: Minimal		
The level of value added through consideration of the item	5	
Amount of concern to local communities	5	
Level of strategic importance	5	
Impact on Council expenditure	5	
Level of performance concerns	1	

NB: 5: Yes, 0: No		
There is new Government legislation or guidance attributed to this area	5	
This is a Council priority	5	
There are key reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on the issue	0	
Referred from another Committee or Panel	5	

Total : **36**

Revision of Housing Strategy	Source	Timescale
The Housing Strategy needs to be revised to take into account housing in Milton Keynes in its broadest sense, particularly in the context of partnership working. This strategy would encompass other strategies/policies etc, for example, homelessness. The Audit Commission has recently published a report which supports this approach.	Corporate Director, Community Wellbeing	November '09
NB: 5: Major, 3: Significant, 1: Minimal		
The level of value added through consideration of the item		5
Amount of concern to local communities		5
Level of strategic importance		5
Impact on Council expenditure		5
Level of performance concerns		1

NB: 5: Yes, 0: No		
There is new Government legislation or guidance attributed to this area		0
This is a Council priority		5
There are key reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on the issue		5
Referred from another Committee or Panel		5
Total :		36

Maternity and Neonatal Services	Source	Timescale
An update from the Hospital on the CQC's formal review of progress into its Maternity Services. An action plan was approved by what was formerly the Healthcare Commission in February and CQC (its successor body) will be monitoring the Hospital's progress in implementing it through September. Improvements to the Neonatal Services at the Hospital should also be considered in light of the Maternity Services Review.	HSP Recommendation March '09/Director of Nursing (MKFTH)	January 2010
NB: 5: Major, 3: Significant, 1: Minimal		
The level of value added through consideration of the item		3
Amount of concern to local communities		5
Level of strategic importance		5
Impact on Council expenditure		1
Level of performance concerns		5

NB: 5: Yes, 0: No		
There is new Government legislation or guidance attributed to this area		0
This is a Council priority		0
There are key reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on the issue		5
Referred from another Committee or Panel		5
Total :		29

Future Funding of NHS	Source	Timescale
Discussion on future funding levels of the NHS and how NHS MK plans to cope with the effects of the financial recession. The pressure on funding levels is likely to result in substantial changes to the way services are run.	Deputy Director of Public Health/HSP Planning Group	October '09
NB: 5: Major, 3: Significant, 1: Minimal		
The level of value added through consideration of the item		3
Amount of concern to local communities		3
Level of strategic importance		5
Impact on Council expenditure		1
Level of performance concerns		1

NB: 5: Yes, 0: No		
There is new Government legislation or guidance attributed to this area		5
This is a Council priority		0
There are key reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on the issue		5
Referred from another Committee or Panel		5

Total : **28**

Provision of GP Services	Source	Timescale
<p>Provision of General Practitioner Services <i>Council Referral 5(b)(i) [10 March 2009]</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That this Council calls upon the Health Scrutiny Panel to report to the Council within 6 months on the provision of General Practitioner Services in the rural and expanding areas of the Borough; and in particular to examine the situation in those wards where practices have closed their books. 2. That, additionally, the Council asks the Panel to investigate the increased cost to patients where practices locally are using 0844 numbers to access appointments or prescription renewals. 3. That the Health Scrutiny Panel be asked to include in its remit, an examination of the provision of GP Services in the older parts of the Borough, with particular emphasis on the suitability of premises. 	Council Recommendation March '09	This item is not time sensitive but is in response to a recommendation from Council.
NB: 5: Major, 3: Significant, 1: Minimal		
The level of value added through consideration of the item		3
Amount of concern to local communities		5
Level of strategic importance		5
Impact on Council expenditure		1
Level of performance concerns		3

NB: 5: Yes, 0: No		
There is new Government legislation or guidance attributed to this area		0
This is a Council priority		0
There are key reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on the issue		5
Referred from another Committee or Panel		5

Total : **27**

Joint Working Arrangements with the Council and the PCT	Source	Timescale
Two key areas to consider with regards to working arrangements with the Council and the PCT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extending joint commissioning responsibilities - Integrating services and the accountability structures in place to ensure this is done appropriately 	Corporate Director, Community Wellbeing	TBC
NB: 5: Major, 3: Significant, 1: Minimal		
The level of value added through consideration of the item		3
Amount of concern to local communities		1
Level of strategic importance		5
Impact on Council expenditure		5
Level of performance concerns		1

NB: 5: Yes, 0: No		
There is new Government legislation or guidance attributed to this area		5
This is a Council priority		5
There are key reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on the issue		0
Referred from another Committee or Panel		0
Total :		25

Community Safety	Source	Timescale
<p>The Partnership Strategy, the Annual Strategic Assessment and financial arrangements are the most valuable areas for scrutiny.</p> <p>Partnership Strategy: Annual – this year's has just been published. Consultation on this informs the CS budget.</p> <p>Strategic Assessment: due out beginning Sept 09. O&S could add value by commenting on the report for next year and on where the Council should focus strategically over the next three years.</p> <p>NI21 on local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime is a high priority, as people in Milton Keynes are becoming less confident compared to other local authority areas. Domestic violence and hate crime are also causing concern.</p>	Brian Sandom and Richard Solly	<p>Strategic Assessment: Sept-Dec 2009</p> <p>Partnership Strategy: Jan/Feb 2010</p> <p>Annual Plan: Feb 2009</p>
NB: 5: Major, 3: Significant, 1: Minimal		
The level of value added through consideration of the item		2
Amount of concern to local communities		3
Level of strategic importance		3
Impact on Council expenditure		1
Level of performance concerns		2

NB: 5: Yes, 0: No		
There is new Government legislation or guidance attributed to this area		5
This is a Council priority		0
There are key reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on the issue		5
Referred from another Committee or Panel		5
Total :		24

Libraries and Community Learning Strategy	Source	Timescale
The scope for the Libraries and Community Learning Strategy is currently being developed. Members are asked to consider at which stage they would want to be involved in the process. This also raises the questions as to what stage Members want to be involved in the development of all Council strategies/high-level policies etc.	Corporate Director, Community Wellbeing	TBC
NB: 5: Major, 3: Significant, 1: Minimal		
The level of value added through consideration of the item		5
Amount of concern to local communities		1
Level of strategic importance		5
Impact on Council expenditure		3
Level of performance concerns		1

NB: 5: Yes, 0: No		
There is new Government legislation or guidance attributed to this area		0
This is a Council priority		5
There are key reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on the issue		0
Referred from another Committee or Panel		0

Total : **20**

Highways Asset Management Plan (AMP)	Source	Timescale
AMPs for the Council's whole portfolio being completed; even after signing off, recommendations on delivery would add value.	Brian Sandom	AMPs due to be signed off by 31 Oct 09
NB: 5: Major, 3: Significant, 1: Minimal		
The level of value added through consideration of the item		3
Amount of concern to local communities		1
Level of strategic importance		3
Impact on Council expenditure		3
Level of performance concerns		3

NB: 5: Yes, 0: No		
There is new Government legislation or guidance attributed to this area		0
This is a Council priority		3
There are key reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on the issue		3
Referred from another Committee or Panel		0

Total : **19**

Transport Strategy	Source	Timescale
This was agreed in December and is to be reviewed over the following 18 months, taking into account the Climate Change Act and other national guidance. There will be a stakeholder meeting in September to create a vision, which will be the basis for the review. Public transport usage and public satisfaction levels will be of interest.	Brian Sandom and Pele Bhamber	As soon as possible after the stakeholder meeting – Oct/Nov 2009
NB: 5: Major, 3: Significant, 1: Minimal		
The level of value added through consideration of the item		3
Amount of concern to local communities		3
Level of strategic importance		3
Impact on Council expenditure		3
Level of performance concerns		3

NB: 5: Yes, 0: No		
There is new Government legislation or guidance attributed to this area		0
This is a Council priority		3
There are key reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on the issue		0
Referred from another Committee or Panel		0

Total : **18**

HiMO Strategy	Source	Timescale
The HiMO Strategy, which has been developed in consultation with the HiMO Cabinet Advisory Group, will be presented to Cabinet in October. There is an opportunity for Members to comment on the Strategy before then but it is doubted what value this would add.	Cllr Williams/Roland Payne	September '09
NB: 5: Major, 3: Significant, 1: Minimal		
The level of value added through consideration of the item		1
Amount of concern to local communities		3
Level of strategic importance		1
Impact on Council expenditure		1
Level of performance concerns		1

NB: 5: Yes, 0: No		
There is new Government legislation or guidance attributed to this area		0
This is a Council priority		0
There are key reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on the issue		0
Referred from another Committee or Panel		5
Total :		12

Waste Strategy	Source	Timescale
Value added by O&S would be considerable, once the process starts next year.	Brian Sandom	2010/11
NB: 5: Major, 3: Significant, 1: Minimal		
The level of value added through consideration of the item		1
Amount of concern to local communities		1
Level of strategic importance		3
Impact on Council expenditure		3
Level of performance concerns		1

NB: 5: Yes, 0: No		
There is new Government legislation or guidance attributed to this area		0
This is a Council priority		0
There are key reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on the issue		0
Referred from another Committee or Panel		0

Total : **9**