

**To the Chair and Members of the
Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

**REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
WORK PLAN REPORT 2013/14**

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Glyn Jones Christine Mills Bob Johnson Bill Mordue Joe Blackham	All	None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides an update on progress against the Panel's work plan.

EXEMPT INFORMATION

2. Not exempt

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The Panel is asked to: -
 - a) Comment on the revised work plan detailed in Appendix A.
 - b) Note the actions points for the last Enterprising Doncaster meeting held on the 24th October, 2013.
 - c) Discuss and agree the next steps for considering Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) Work Programme.

BACKGROUND

4. The Panel agreed its 2013/14 work plan at its meeting on 13th June, 2013. This report provides an update on key issues relating to the work programme following that meeting, this is attached at Appendix A. Members are reminded that the work plan is a live document to be regularly reviewed and updated.

Strategy Working Group

5. The Strategy working group has met on a number of occasions and contributed to the following strategies:
6. Cycling Strategy – the working group's recommendations and the Mayor's response are attached at Appendix B and C for the Panel's attention.

Enterprising Doncaster – 24th October, 2013

7. The last meeting of the Enterprising Doncaster Board was held on 24th October, but the minutes of the meeting were not available for circulation at the time of agenda dispatch and will therefore be circulated to Members as soon as they are available.

Informal Panel Meeting - DWP Work Programme – 14th October, 2013

8. There was an informal meeting of the Panel held on the 14th October, 2013 which was attended by representatives from Serco, A4E, Job Centre Plus and North Doncaster Development Trust. The meeting was adjourned by the Chair on the basis that the Panel was not in receipt of sufficient information and that what was provided was both confusing and unhelpful to the discussions. Panel Members may wish to discuss the merits of reconvening this meeting on the 21st January, 2013 (currently scheduled for a formal panel meeting).

Update on the Access to Housing Finance Review

9. Members will recall that they undertook a spotlight review into Access to Housing Finance in February this year. Following the last meeting held on the 30th September, 2013, a response was provided by letter by Councillor Glynn Jones, Cabinet Member for Housing. A copy of this response can be found in Appendix D.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

10. There are no specific options to consider within this report as it provides an opportunity for the Panel to receive an update on its 2013/14 work plan.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

11. This report provides the panel with an update on its 2013/14 work programme.

IMPACT ON COUNCIL'S KEY OBJECTIVES

	Priority Outcome	Implications of this initiative
	Doncaster's economy develops and thrives, underpinned by effective education and skills	The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all of the council's key objectives by holding decision makers to account, reviewing performance and developing policy through robust recommendations, monitoring performance of council and external partners services and reviewing issues outside the remit of the council that have an impact on the residents of the borough.
	Children are safe	
	Stronger families and stronger communities	
	Modernised and sustainable Adult Social Care Services with increased choice and control	
	Effective arrangements are in place to deliver a clean, safe and	

	attractive local environment	
	The Council is operating effectively, with change embedded and sustained with robust plans in place to operate within future resource allocations	

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

12. To maximise the effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny function it is important that the work plan devised is manageable and that it accurately reflects the broad range of issues within its remit. Failure to achieve this can reduce the overall impact of the function.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. The Council's Constitution states that subject to matters being referred to it by other parts of the Full Council, OSMC or the Executive and any timetables laid down by those references the Regeneration & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel will determine its own work programme (Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 6c).
14. Overview and Scrutiny Panels Terms of Reference – 3, states that the Panel is empowered to establish ad hoc working groups from within its membership, to undertake project and policy development work, to meet the objectives and targets of its annual work plan.
15. Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15 (a) states that where, in the opinion of the Chair of an Overview and Scrutiny Panel, the matters under discussion are relevant to matters referred to other Scrutiny Panel(s) he/she shall consider to what extent to invite the participation of the Chair and/or other Members of the other Panel in the deliberations.
16. Specific legal implications and advice will be given with any reports when Overview and Scrutiny have received them as items for consideration.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

17. The budget for the support of the Overview and Scrutiny function 2013/14 is not affected by this report however, the delivery of the work plan will need to take place within agreed budgets. There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Any financial implications relating to specific reports on the work plan will be included in those reports.

CONSULTATION

18. A work planning event was held in June, with Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Members with a view to developing the work plan.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

19. None

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