

**Eden District Council**

**Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee  
2 July 2015**

**Scrutiny Review Work Programme 2015 - 16**

**Reporting Officer: Director of Corporate and Legal Services**

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the outcomes of the Scrutiny work programme consultation process undertaken between January- March 2015 and of the outcomes of the Scrutiny Work Programme Seminar which was held on the 4 June 2015. Also to invite the Committee to agree the topics allocated to the Environment and Economy Committee for review over the coming municipal year.

**2 Recommendation:**

- |  |
|--|
| <p>1. That the 2015-16 Scrutiny Review Work Programme be noted.</p> <p>2. That the topics allocated to the Environment and Economy Committee be agreed for the 2015-16 Scrutiny Review Work Programme.</p> |
|--|

**3 Report Details**

- 3.1 Each year the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Board sets the annual Scrutiny review work programme. The programme is based on a wide consultation process that was undertaken during 26 January-26 March 2015. The initial consultation process invited suggestions from all Councillors, as well as producing an article for the Cumberland and Westmorland Herald, utilising social media including Facebook and Twitter and writing to parish magazines to encourage service users in Eden to get in touch. We also wrote to every Parish or Town Council and contacted all the secondary schools in Eden to ask for suggestions. We also asked all members of staff at Eden via the corporate bulletin board and contacted all the Senior Management Team for suggestions.
- 3.2 Once the work programme consultation closed, a seminar was held prior to the start of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Board meeting on the 4 June to which all non-Executive Members were invited. This seminar allowed non-Executive members the opportunity review all of the suggestions received and prioritise the topics that they felt would benefit from further scrutiny.
- 3.3 The topics that were selected at the seminar on 4 June formed the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2015 – 16. At the seminar, topics were prioritised against the Council Plan objectives and by identifying those suggestions which are most likely to add value to the work of Eden District Council over

the next year. The finalised work programme is attached at **Appendix A** to this report.

- 3.4 The topics chosen to form the work programme have been allocated to each Board or Committee depending on which Portfolio Holder's area they fall into. Each topic being reviewed will be developed into a full project scope before the review commences.
- 3.5 In addition, when the work programme was set, account was taken of what may be emerging issues for the Council in terms of its future plans. Also, sufficient time was left in the schedule to allow for additional topics to be added to the work programme at any point later in the year.
- 3.6 When the Work Programme has been agreed, Member Services Officers will contact non-Executive Members and invite them to participate in the reviews on the work programme.

## **4 Policy Framework**

- 4.1 The Council has four corporate priorities which are:  
Decent Homes for All  
Strong Economy, Rich Environment  
Thriving Communities  
Quality Council
- 4.2 This report helps meet the Quality Council corporate priority

## **5 Implications**

### **5.1 Legal**

- 5.1.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **5.2 Financial**

- 5.2.1 Any decision to reduce or increase resources must be made within the context of the Council's stated priorities as set out in its Council Plan 2015-19 as agreed at Council on 16 April 2015.
- 5.2.2 There are no proposals in this report that will reduce or increase resources.
- 5.3.3 Any finance required to undertake scrutiny reviews will be taken from the agreed scrutiny budget.

### **5.3 Equality and Diversity**

- 5.3.1 The Council has to have regard to the elimination of unlawful discrimination and harassment and the promotion of equality under the Equality Act 2010 and related statutes.
- 5.3.2 There are not any specific Equality and Diversity issues associated with this report, though Equality and Diversity issues will be considered by the individual reviews that have been prioritised.

## **5.4 Environmental**

5.4.1 The Council has to have due regard to conserving bio-diversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

5.4.2 None arising from this report.

## **5.5 Crime and Disorder**

5.5.1 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Council has to have regard to the need to reduce crime and disorder in exercising any of its functions.

5.5.2 The Council's designated Crime and Disorder Panel is the Housing and Communities Scrutiny Committee. An item on the work plan will be considered by the Housing and Communities Panel whilst they are acting as the Crime and Disorder Panel.

## **5.6 Children**

5.6.1 Under the Children Act 2004 the Council has to have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the exercise of any of its functions.

5.6.2 None arising directly from this report, though local secondary school pupils were consulted on the work programme.

## **5.7 Risk Management**

5.7.1 Scrutiny is about involving members of the public in its work, usually via consultation

5.7.2 The Council has a duty placed upon it to involve communities and risks its reputation if it does not do so.

P G Foote

Director of Corporate and Legal Services

### **Governance Checks:**

Checked by or on behalf of the Chief Finance Officer	✓
Checked by or on behalf of the Monitoring Officer	✓

Background Papers:

None

Contact Officer: S Bagshaw

Telephone Number: 01768 212160