

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Scrutiny Board

Date **21 November 2013**

Report of: **Director of Finance and Resources**

Subject: **SCRUTINY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14**

SUMMARY

Items for the draft work programme of the Board for the year were agreed by the Board at its meeting on 21 March 2013 and confirmed by the Council at its meeting on 25 April 2013. The Board reviewed the work programme at its meetings on 30 May 2013, 4 July 2013 and 26 September 2013.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board is now invited to further review the work programme for 2013/14.

INTRODUCTION

1. At the meeting of the Board on 21 March 2013, members agreed items for the draft work programme of the Board for the current year, 2013/14. The work programme was subsequently confirmed by the Council at its meeting on 25 April 2013. The Board's work programme is set out in Appendix A to this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

2. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

CONCLUSION

3. The Board is now invited to endorse the decision to include Council Tax Support – year 2 and Updates to the Constitution on the work programme for 21 November 2013 and to further review its work programme for 2013/14.

Background Papers:

None.

Reference Papers:

None.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Andrew Wannell (Ext 4620).

SCRUTINY BOARD –WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

DATE	SCRUTINY BOARD ITEM
30 May 2013	Review of the work programme 2013/14 Question and answer session with representatives of the Environment Agency
4 July 2013	Presentation by, and Questioning of, the Executive Member for Streetscene The Disclosure and Barring System Annual Report on the Performance of the Community Safety Partnership Review of the work programme 2013/14
26 September 2013	Medium Term Finance Strategy 2013/14 Review of the work programme 2013/14
21 November 2013	Review of the work programme 2013/14 Presentation by, and Questioning of, an Executive Member Costs associated with the preparation work for the Welborne development Council Tax Support – Year 2 Updates to the Constitution
23 January 2014	Preliminary overall review of work programme 2013/14 and draft programme for 20413/15 Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2014/15 Housing Revenue Account Budget and Capital Plans 2014/15
20 March 2014	Final review of work programme for 2013/14 and draft for 2014/15 Presentation by, and Questioning of, an Executive Member

Items to be assigned:

- Question and answer session with Solent Local Enterprise Partnership
- Review of the implementation of the universal credit system and its impact on the residents of Fareham (for 2014/15)

<u>SCRUTINY BOARD WORK PROGRAMME - PROGRESS SINCE LAST MEETING</u>				APPENDIX B	
Date of Meeting	Subject	Type of Item	Action by Board	Outcome	Link Officer
26 September 2013	Medium Term Finance Strategy	Consultation	<p>The Board considered a report by the Director of Finance and Resources on the Medium Term Finance Strategy 2013/14. Members were invited to consider the review of the Finance Strategy and to note that any comments would be reported to the Executive when the strategy document was submitted for approval at the Executive meeting on 7 October 2013.</p> <p>It was AGREED that:-</p> <p>(a) the Executive be advised that the Board had requested that the table in paragraph 40 on page 7 of the Draft Strategy be amended to clarify references to member approval by indicating whether the decisions would be made by Council, the Executive or non-executive committees;</p> <p>(b) the Executive be advised that the Board had requested that paragraph 70 on page 11 of the Draft Strategy be deleted;</p> <p>(c) it be recommended to the Executive that it looks at ways of identifying possible funding from the European Union and other organisations, in partnership with other local</p>	<p>(a)-(f) as shown reported to the meeting of the Executive on 7 October 2013.</p> <p>The Executive considered the matter as follows: (1) Annual Review of the Council's Finance Strategy</p> <p>The Executive Leader introduced the item by explaining that analysis of financial projections has identified the need to make significant savings over the next five years.</p> <p>The Executive Leader confirmed that estimates of income and expenditure over the five year period highlight a budget</p>	Andrew Wannell/Neil Wood

			<p>authorities in the area;</p> <p>(d) the Executive be advised that the Board has requested that paragraph 99 on page 15 of the Draft Strategy be amended to clarify that the reference to costs associated with “Welborne planning and supporting delivery” refer to potential expenditure in addition to those incurred in the preparation of the Welborne Local Plan and supporting strategic masterplan;</p> <p>(e) the Executive be advised that the Board noted the significance and uncertainties surrounding the areas identified, and suggested that further work should be undertaken to broadly quantify the financial risk to support the Finance Strategy; and</p> <p>(f) the Executive be advised that the Board suggested that the following wording in paragraph 99 on page 15 of the Draft Strategy, “but have yet to be costed”, be replaced with “but because of the high level of uncertainty, these costs have yet to be included in the financial projections” to more accurately reflect the position.</p>	<p>shortfall of £800,000 which has been caused by factors such as the ongoing reduction in Government funding, inflation and low interest rates on investments.</p> <p>In anticipation of this substantial shortfall, the Executive Leader advised that he has asked the Chief Executive Officer to prepare and bring forward a range of options for the budget gap to be closed by using the four elements of the Council’s Efficiency plan (Priorities, Proceeds, People/Process and Procurement) as a basis, with a view to finding £800,000 of savings by 2015.</p> <p>The comments of the Scrutiny Board were taken into account for this item (see minute 7 above).</p>	
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				<p>RESOLVED that the Executive agrees:</p> <p>(a) the Council's finance strategy and the budget guidelines for 2014/15, as set out in the finance strategy document attached to this report;</p> <p>(b) to note that the Chief Executive Officer must carry out a review of the Council's budgets with the aim of reducing costs by £800,000 before April 2015; and</p> <p>(c) to submit the updated Pay Policy, annexed to the Medium Term Finance Strategy, to the Council for approval.</p> <p>(2) Award of Tender: Resurfacing Contract - Approach to Fareham Shopping Centre</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Executive agrees:</p> <p>(a) to approve an additional £35,000</p>	
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				budget provision from reserves; and (b) that the tender submitted by the contractor ranked 1 (as set out in the confidential appendix A), being the most advantageous tender received, be accepted and the contract awarded to the company.	
	Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2013/14	Programmin g	The Board considered a report by the Director of Finance and Resources, which invited members to review the Board's work programme for 2013/14. It was AGREED that:- (a) the programme of items as set out in Appendix A to the report be noted; and (b) the progress on actions since the last meeting, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be noted.	Complete.	Andrew Wannell
	Project Integra Strategic Board Minutes	Scrutiny	It was reported that, as part of the review of Project Integra, the Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee was disbanded and the scrutiny function delegated to the partner authorities. It was decided that the minutes of the meetings of the Project Integra Strategic Board would be	The next meeting of the Project Integra Strategic Board will be held on 26 November 2013.	Paul Doran

			<p>circulated to the Chairman of each partner authority's Scrutiny Committee for review.</p> <p>Members were therefore invited to consider the minutes of the meeting of the Project Integra Strategic Board held on 4 July 2013.</p> <p>It was AGREED that:-</p> <p>(a) the Director of Streetscene be requested to convey members' views on the excessive use of acronyms in the minutes, particularly as the minutes were now being more widely circulated; and</p> <p>(b) the Director of Streetscene be requested to convey members' comments on the need for additional information about confidential items in the minutes.</p>		
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