



**AGENDA ITEM: 10**

**CORPORATE AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW &  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:  
11 July 2013**

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**Report of: Borough Solicitor**

**Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director (People and Places)**

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**SUBJECT: REVIEW TOPIC FOR 2013/14 AND CONFIRMATION OF WORK  
PROGRAMME**

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Wards affected: Borough wide.

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To enable Members to determine whether it wishes to undertake one in-depth review (or otherwise) as part of the Committee's Work Programme, in 2013/14, having considered the outcome of the Topic Scoring Exercise undertaken by the Assistant Director Community Services in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Labour Group Spokesperson.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the Summary of the Outcome of the Topic Scoring Exercise (Appendix A) be noted.

2.2 That the actions recommended, in relation to the topics referenced (b) to (e) of Appendix A, be endorsed.

2.3 That, in relation to the topics referenced (a), (f) and (g) of Appendix A, namely 'Approach to the Eradication of Non-Native Species of Weeds in our Hedgerows and Riverbanks; 'The Night-time Economy' and 'Health Provision Changes – Local Role & Responsibilities', these be included in the Work Programme 2013/14 of the Committee as one-off items and that arrangements be put in place for internal and external contributors, as appropriate, to attend a meeting of the Committee during 2013/14.

2.4 That an in-depth review is not undertaken in 2013/14.

- 2.5 That if the recommendations set out above are agreed that the Work Programme for the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2013/14 be amended and the revised Work Programme be included on the Council's web-site.
- 2.6 That any ideas for longer in-depth study submitted during the course of the year be retained and considered for inclusion in a future work programme, subject to a satisfactory scoring outcome and resources.
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### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee establishes its own Work Programme annually. In relation to the Work Programme for the Committee it was agreed at the meeting held on 21 February 2013 that arrangements would be put in place to request items for the work programme for 2013/14:

- By inviting all Members and the DSH to submit topics.
- By inviting members of the public to submit topics via a press release and the inclusion of an article on the Council's web site.

3.2 At its meeting held on 21 February 2013 the Committee agreed that all potential topics received by the deadline would be published on the Council's web site for Members of the public to comment or make suggestions on any future topics and that following the deadline for receipt of potential topics the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Labour Spokesperson would score a number of potential topics put forward.

3.3 Further, following completion of the arrangements detailed above the Committee determine at this meeting whether it wishes to undertake an in-depth review as part of its Work Programme 2013/14.

### **4.0 CURRENT POSITION**

4.4 The scoring exercise was subsequently undertaken on 20 June 2012 by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Labour Group Spokesperson of this Committee and the following submitted topics were considered:

- Approach to the eradication of non native species of weeds in our hedgerows and riverbanks
- Dog Fouling in the Borough
- Student Accommodation/HMO's in Ormskirk
- The Night-time Economy
- Establishment of a Disabled Residents Services Commission
- Council Staffing Structure
- Health Provision Changes - Local role & responsibilities

4.5 To ensure that the topics scored were dealt with in a thorough and effective way the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Labour

Group Spokesperson, were mindful of the Scrutiny Topic Selection Assessment shown on each Scrutiny Topic Assessment Template.

- 4.6 The Summary of Outcome – Topic Scoring Exercise (Appendix A), including the reasons and recommendations, sets out the overall results of the exercise.

## **5.0 PROPOSALS**

- 5.0 The Committee has a robust agenda each meeting containing Members Items (CCfA), Members Update Items, performance management reports, including scrutiny of the Annual Reports of One Connect Ltd. and West Lancashire Community Leisure/Serco, as well as acting as the Council’s Crime and Disorder Committee. Therefore if the Committee recommends not to undertake an in-depth review, there remains a substantial work programme for its consideration.

- 5.2 That, in addition to the above, the topics namely ‘Approach to the Eradication of Non Native Species of Weeds in our Hedgerows and Riverbanks; ‘The Night-time Economy and Health Provision Changes - Local Role & Responsibilities be added to the Committee’s Work Programme as “one-off” items with presentations and attendance by internal and/or external contributors, as appropriate.

- 5.3 It is further proposed that if no topic is selected for in-depth review that the Work Programme for the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2013/14 be amended to reflect the agreed changes to its Work Programme and be included on the Council’s website.

## **6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

- 6.1 Enhanced overview and scrutiny arrangements can give a greater level of involvement for non-cabinet members in the decision making process.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are financial and resource implications in respect of officer and member time in dealing with the matters under the Work Programme and must be contained within existing resources.

## **8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1 The work of the Committee has to be balanced with other priorities and dealt with accordingly. Officers will advise the Committee on the capacity to support the Work Programme and will be as helpful as possible in trying to accommodate Members requests.

## **9.0 CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 The topic selection process involves members applying their knowledge, experience and judgement throughout. Officers can support and advise members on topic selection having regard to the agreed criteria. It is for the Members of the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee to decide how they wish to proceed.

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### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

The decision does not have a direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. However, if a topic was selected for in-depth review it may have an impact on those groups and, if so, this will be assessed when the Project Plan is prepared.

### **Appendices**

Appendix A – Summary Outcome – Topic Scoring Exercise