

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Health Scrutiny Panel      **DATE:** 12 June 2013

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Sarah Forsyth – Scrutiny Officer  
**(For all Enquiries)** (01753) 875657

**WARDS:** All

### **PART I**

#### **FOR COMMENT & DECISION**

#### **HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL – 2013/14 WORK PROGRAMME**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 For the Health Scrutiny Panel to identify priorities and topics for its Work Programme for the 2013/14 municipal year.

##### **2. Recommendations/Proposed Action**

2.1 That the Panel:

- 1) identify the major themes and individual issues it would like to cover in the 2013/14 municipal year; and
- 2) agree, where possible, timing for specific agenda items during the 2013/14 municipal year.

##### **3. Slough Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

- **Health and Wellbeing**

3.1 The Council's decision-making, and the effective scrutiny of it, underpins the delivery of all the Slough Wellbeing Strategy priorities, however the Health Scrutiny Panel holds a specific remit to scrutinise and provide public transparency for health and wellbeing issues across Slough.

##### **4. Supporting Information**

4.1 The purpose of Overview and Scrutiny is to hold those that make decisions and provide services to account and to analyse where improvements could be made in the provision of those services.

4.2 Prioritising issues is difficult. The Scrutiny function has limited support resources, and therefore it is important that the work scrutiny does adds value to the process.

4.3 The role of Health Scrutiny is extremely challenging and complex, with statutory responsibilities both internal to the Council and external.

4.4 In considering what the Health Scrutiny Panel should look at, members are invited to consider the following questions:

- *To what extent does this issue impact on the lives of Slough's residents?*
- *Is this issue strategic and pertinent across the Borough?*
- *What difference will it make if the Panel looks at this issue?*

4.5 The topics included in the list below include those suggested by Panel members during the 2012/13 municipal year.

## 5. **Suggested Topics**

6.1 One of the biggest challenges for the Panel in deciding its work programme is balancing a desire to look at everything with developing a realistic programme for the time available. With this in mind it will be important to keep items at each meeting to a minimum to allow the Panel to delve down into specific subject areas and fully scrutinise the work that is being undertaken.

6.2 This will be a continuous process (reports coming to each Panel meeting), and flexibility and responsiveness is vital to success.

## 7. **Resource Implications**

7.1 Overview and Scrutiny is supported by 1 FTE member of staff. This officer is responsible for support the O&S Committee and three Scrutiny Panels. Therefore, this is a finite resource and consideration must be given, in conjunction with the work programmes for the three Scrutiny Panels, as to how the resource is used during the year.

## 8. **Conclusion**

8.1 This report is intended to provide the Panel with information and guidance on how best to organise its work programme for the 2013/14 municipal year. As previously stated, this is an ongoing process and there will be flexibility to amend the programme as the year progresses, however, it is important that the Panel organises its priorities at the start of the year.

## 9. **Appendices Attached**

A - Draft Work Programme for 2013/14 Municipal Year

## 10. **Background Papers**

None.