

Report to Planning Services Scrutiny Standing Panel

Date of meeting: 20 December 2011

Subject: Terms of Reference and Work Plan 2011/2012



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Committee Secretary: M Jenkins (01992 56 4607)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the revised Terms of Reference and Work Plan are agreed for submission to, and for the approval of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Report:

The Terms of Reference and the Work Plan (TOR & WP) have been amended in the past, and, indeed, there is the ability for Overview and Scrutiny Committee to add or amend work on a continuing basis.

The Panel have also instigated changes in the past; although these could be characterised as relatively minor tweaks.

Councillor Lion suggested that the TOR be amended, but pressure of work to consider a number of key consultations has not meant that the Panel have discussed those to date. A copy of those suggested terms are attached as Appendix 4.

Officers from Planning & Economic Development have met with colleagues from Democratic Services; they have considered a more fundamental set of amendments reflecting on:

- The TOR & WP of the other Standing Scrutiny Panels, so as to secure consistency.
- Whether the most recent arrangements have been manageable, or whether the arrangements have ended up being rather unwieldy.
- The need to be succinct, whilst not precluding proper and timely scrutiny.
- The aligning of the work of the Panel with other work streams, such as the Business Plan, and the refocusing/simplifying of the Panel's work to better fit with that work.

Accordingly, attached as Appendices 5 and 6 are suggested revised TOR and an amended WP; these are drawn from relevant sections and action areas in the existing Business Plan. Plainly because of continuing change to the overall resources available to the Council, there may well be changes to future Business Plans, but those can then, in turn, be used to instigate change to these documents.