



**Resource and legal considerations:**

In accordance with the constitution the panel may ask persons to attend to address them on matters under consideration and may pay to any advisors, assessors and other persons a reasonable fee and expenses for doing so.

**Citizen impact:**

All citizens with a relevant interest in a matter will have the ability to contribute to the deliberations of a scrutiny and performance panel.

**Environmental impact:**

Successful overview and scrutiny can assist in shaping policy to make environmental improvements.

**Performance management:**

Scrutiny is an important and integral part of the council's performance management framework and can challenge review and advise on service delivery, council activity and policy and improvements.

**Equality Implications:**

All citizens with a relevant interest in a matter will have the ability to contribute to the deliberations of a scrutiny and performance panel.

**Consultation:**

Consultation with panel members will be required regarding their views on specific issues to be considered for scrutiny.

**Vision 2008:**

Identification of issues for scrutiny is aimed at achieving the council's vision.

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

- 1.1 The report aims to inform members of the current position of the work of the panel during 2004/5 municipal year and outline the process recommended for identifying and prioritising items for scrutiny in 2005/6. Further, if appropriate, to re-establish the working groups which have not yet concluded their reviews and establish additional working groups.

## **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 The panel scoped its work programme for the municipal year in August 2004. The following matters were considered for inclusion on the programme for 2004/5: -

- a) Telecommunication Masts.
- b) West Midlands Transport Strategy.
- c) Recycling Strategy.
- d) Anti-Social Behaviour/Community Safety.
- e) Impact of Regeneration on Vision 2008.
- f) Planning Best Value Reviews.

- 2.1.2 In addition to the items above the panel has also received information and updates on inspections and improvement plans; regularly monitored performance issues and received performance exception presentations and information on HERbi.

- 2.1.3 The panel further held special meetings to: -

- a) Consider the budget and made comments and recommendations to cabinet.
- b) Consider and pass comment on the report of the Community, Organisation, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny and Performance Panel relating to a call-in of the Putting the Citizen First Project preferred bidder decision.
- c) Call-in decisions made by cabinet relating to Neighbourhood Resource Centres and made recommendations to cabinet.

- 2.1.4 The panel recognised the important role of Local Neighbourhood Partnerships and referred work where appropriate.

## **2.2 Telecommunications Masts**

- 2.2.1 The telecommunications Masts Working Group was established in November 2004 with the following remit: -

- Research into what other neighbouring councils were doing and identifying best practice nationally.
- To give the operations an opportunity to address the working group.
- To consider a policy for planning applications.
- To identify how best to improve the communication of information relating to masts.

2.2.2 The working group report has been submitted to this meeting under separate cover.

### 2.3 Regeneration Work Group

2.3.1 The panel initially received presentations on the key regeneration projects that the council is currently involved in and any transport implications. It was accepted that the work group should concentrate initially on transport issues in particular relating to the local transport plan. The working group was therefore established on the 2 November 2004 with the following remit and membership: -

Members – Councillor Coughlan, Councillor I. Shires and Councillor Yasin, chair of Regeneration Company.

Remit: -

- A mapping exercise be undertaken to identify and plot all existing and proposed regeneration activity within the borough.
- That officers provide further information about the 'Keyway Report' – a Black Country Study currently being undertaken, which looks at the issues of access to industrial areas and traffic models.
- That research into existing and future proposals set out in the West Midlands Local transport Plan (WMLTP), Walsall's Transport Strategy and the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) is undertaken in order to determine the impact that these strategies or plans will have upon existing and proposed regeneration activity within the borough, particularly in respect of proposed transport infrastructures and access to employment.
- That a clear picture is identified representing what transportation issues are currently affecting or could potentially affect the success of economic regeneration projects within the borough. This is required to enable members to identify issues early and potentially reduce any negative impact, through scrutinisation at project development stage.

2.3.2 Following a presentation at Regeneration panel (26.1.05) the 'Regeneration Framework the Master Plan' members of the work group have invited with Peter Cromar Chief Executive Walsall Regeneration Company to attend and participate in its meetings. The group has met on a number of occasions and is looking at a large area of work which may need to be scoped further.

2.3.3 The work group has recently received a demonstration of the accessibility planning software from the suppliers and made recommendations to officers to work with the software providers to give a presentation to cabinet to fully demonstrate its usage to map regeneration and transportation in the borough.

2.3.4 The work of the working group is still in progress and it is envisaged to continue for a number of years to monitor ongoing issues that need to be considered. The panel will need to consider re-establishing the work group for the 2005/6 municipal year.

## 2.4 Recycling Strategy

- 2.4.1 The panel received a presentation in December 2004 on the recycling performance indicators and noted that this authority would need to work hard to meet this years recycling target of 24% of waste. The panel recognised that sharing good practice nationwide was helping to develop the service in Walsall and to develop a strong regional framework.

## 2.5 Anti-Social Behaviour/Community Safety

- 2.5.1 The panel considered anti-social behaviour and community safety as part of the best value review of community safety in September 2004 and received a presentation on the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership which was received and referred to LNPs. The panel agreed to receive quarterly updates on progress of the improvement plan.

## 2.7 Planning Best Value Review

- 2.7.1 Members received a detailed report and agreed to receive quarterly reviews of the improvement plan.

## 2.8 CPA Housing Improvement Plan

- 2.8.1 The panel agreed in September 2004 to undertake joint scrutiny of the council's Housing Strategy with the Health and Social Care Scrutiny and Performance Panel via a working group which had been established by that panel. The Regeneration, Environment, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny and performance Panel agreed that three of its members should sit on that working group.
- 2.8.2 The working group has not yet completed its work, the inspection date has been put back to March 2006 and an action plan is being drawn up for the joint work group to consider. The panel will need to consider re-nomination of members to sit on this working group for the municipal year 2005/6.

## 3. **Proposed Work Programme 2005/6**

- 3.1 The main items identified on the panels work programme for 2004/5 have been or are being reviewed. The panel may wish to use the scoping criteria referred to below to prepare a work programme for 2005/6 (appendix 1).

## 4. **Scoping Criteria**

### 4.1 Background

- 4.1.1 The report "Considerations for effective scrutiny 2004/5", presented to the Regeneration, Environment, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny and performance, July 2004, outlined an approach to scrutiny derived from consultation with chairs and vice-chairs.
- 4.1.2 The report highlighted the view that the selection of what to scrutinise, aiding the development of a robust focussed work programme, was the key to

ensuring scrutiny was successful and went on to suggest a checklist to aid members in deciding if a subject required scrutiny.

#### 4.2 Aim of the Selection Criteria

- 4.2.1 The use of the selection criteria ensures potential scrutiny items are given fair and consistent consideration against a framework that highlights and focuses the reason from scrutiny.
- 4.2.2. By applying the selection criteria, the panel are actively taking action aimed at ensuring efficient and effective scrutiny.

#### 4.3 Using the selection criteria

- 4.3.1 The criteria for selection (appendix 2) have been developed to explain the reasoning behind each criterion. When assessing a potential scrutiny item, each match against the criteria scores 1. The sum of the scores for matching criteria gives *Score A*.
- 4.3.2 Consideration should now be given to how achievable it would be to complete the work within the municipal year. It is recognised that some work streams are too large to be completed in year one and, therefore, the panel should consider whether work stream can be sub-divided or re-scoped. By completing the work programme within the municipal year, any possible changes to the panel membership are less likely to affect the outcome of scrutiny. A score for achievability is *Score B*.
- 4.3.3 The importance of the potential scrutiny item to delivering the Council's Vision and achieving excellence by 2008, provides *Score C*.
- 4.3.4 Multiplying *Scores A, B and C* provides the overall score for the particular potential scrutiny item.

### 5. Recommendations

- 5.1 That the Regeneration, Environment, Housing and Community Scrutiny and Performance Panel:
  - Note the information regarding the activities of the panel to date.
  - Use the selection criteria to scope the work programme for 2005/6.
  - Re-establish the Regeneration Working Group for the municipal year 2005/6.
  - Nominate members to sit on the CPA Housing Improvement Plan Joint Working Group to be re-established by the Health and Social Care Scrutiny and Performance Panel for the municipal year 2005/6.

**Items for scoping from Work programme 2004/5**

Scrutiny Committee	Topic	Background
<p>Regeneration, Environment, Housing and Community Safety. <i>Regeneration work group</i></p>	<p>The impact of regeneration on the vision 2008 LTP TCTP Car Parking and Park and ride Planned or ongoing Major regeneration Planning accessibility</p>	<p>Regeneration Working Group has a huge range of issues that fall within its remit and was very difficult to scope. It was established in November 2004 and members agreed to initially consider transportation issues. The group is currently investigating the planning accessibility software and work is continuing.</p>
<p>Regeneration, Environment, Housing and Community Safety ;and Health and Social care.</p>	<p>CPA Housing Improvement Plan.</p>	<p>Joint scrutiny between both panels, both have been kept up to date of the work on the working group established by Health and Social Care. The work group has been re-established and will be known as the Housing CPA Action plan. Nominations to the work group are required.</p>
<p>Other issues suggested by members for scoping</p>	<p>Quarterly Reviews Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CROW Act 2000</li> <li>• Directorate Plan (2 meetings to consider in detail at request of panel last year.)</li> <li>• Review of bereavement services (This was a request of panel but there will be a performance review 2005-6)</li> <li>• SRA Rail Utilisation Strategy</li> </ul>	<p>To monitor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Inspection</li> <li>• Planning performance review</li> <li>• Community Safety performance review</li> </ul>

<b>Directorate Key Target</b>	<b>Proposal for Scrutiny (Topic or Service)</b>	<b>Reasoning (Why might scrutiny add value)</b>	<b>Desired Outcome (What are we seeking to achieve)</b>	<b>Preferred Scrutiny Method (How should it be progressed – e.g. full panel, working group, site visit)</b>
Carry out performance reviews for Enforcement and Bereavement Services				
Improve performance in the following key areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Road Conditions</li> <li>- Recycling</li> <li>- Planning</li> </ul>				
Establish the Integrated Transport Project PFI project				
Complete and act on the Highways Maintenance Options Appraisal				
Review the Council's Asset Management Plan and implement a planned maintenance programme for Council property				
Prepare and implement Health & Safety action plans in line with HSE and corporate guidance				



**Built Environment Priorities (Continued)**

<b>Directorate Key Target</b>	<b>Proposal for Scrutiny (Topic or Service)</b>	<b>Reasoning (Why might scrutiny add value)</b>	<b>Desired Outcome (What are we seeking to achieve)</b>	<b>Preferred Scrutiny Method (How should it be progressed – e.g. full panel, working group, site visit)</b>
Continue to improve the working environment across all Council directorates.				
Implement the highways maintenance programme funded under the Prudential Borrowing Code				
Implement the provisions of the 2004 Traffic Management Act as appropriate				

## Urban Regeneration Priorities

<b>Directorate Key Target</b>	<b>Proposal for Scrutiny (Topic or Service)</b>	<b>Reasoning (Why might scrutiny add value)</b>	<b>Desired Outcome (What are we seeking to achieve)</b>	<b>Preferred Scrutiny Method (How should it be progressed – e.g. full panel, working group, site visit)</b>
Develop a Revitalisation Programme for the main district centres of Aldridge, Bloxwich, Brownhills, Darlaston and Willenhall				
Improve the key routes into the borough including the A454 and A461 as part of our Gateways programme		.		
Improve the environment in Walsall Town Centre by completing further phases of the Quality Streets programme including the Civic Quarter		.		
With Walsall Regeneration Company, complete and adopt the Regeneration Framework				
Support the WRC in progressing the transformational projects of Walsall Waterfront; Business and Learning Campus, Darlaston SDA and Shannon's Mill.				

Urban Regeneration priorities (continued)

<b>Directorate Key Target</b>	<b>Proposal for Scrutiny (Topic or Service)</b>	<b>Reasoning (Why might scrutiny add value)</b>	<b>Desired Outcome (What are we seeking to achieve)</b>	<b>Preferred Scrutiny Method (How should it be progressed – e.g. full panel, working group, site visit)</b>
Launch a new Economic Regeneration Service				
Develop an integrated policy base to support the borough's regeneration, including progression of the new Local Development Framework				
Agree and deliver with Fujitsu the regeneration package within "Putting the Citizen First"				

## Community Regeneration and Housing priorities

Directorate Work Theme	Proposal for Scrutiny (Topic or Service)	Reasoning (Why might scrutiny add value)	Desired Outcome (What are we seeking to achieve)	Preferred Scrutiny Method (How should it be progressed – e.g. full panel, working group, site visit)
Achieve 'good' for strategic Housing services, working with Social Care and Supported housing				
Increase no. of social rented homes that meet the Decent Homes Standard and increase the number of vulnerable households living in decent homes in the private sector		.		
Provide support to vulnerabl households to remain in their own homes by increasing funding for disabled facilities grants		.		
Established combined private grants team				
Establish V A T shelter with Walsall Housing group to fund housing led regeneration projects				

## Community Regeneration and Housing priorities (continued)

Directorate Work Theme	Proposal for Scrutiny (Topic or Service)	Reasoning (Why is Scrutiny needed)	Desired Outcome (What are we seeking to achieve)	Preferred Scrutiny Method (How should it be progressed – e.g. full panel, Working group, site visit)
Ensuring housing strategy and housing needs directly informs local development briefs				
Support implementation of the New Deal delivery plan, Blakenall Village Centre and housing development				
Launch new Regeneration framework for housing and district centres revitalisation to direct new housing investment				
Develop prospectus for Black Country and Telford Housing Market Renewal Area and gain Regional Housing Board support				
Launch 3 year crime and disorder strategy safer Wasall Partnership business plan and investigate options for joint enforcement resource with Built Environment				

**Community Regeneration and Housing priorities (continued)**

<b>Directorate Work Theme</b>	<b>Proposal for Scrutiny (Topic or Service)</b>	<b>Reasoning (Why is Scrutiny needed)</b>	<b>Desired Outcome (What are we seeking to achieve)</b>	<b>Preferred Scrutiny Method (How should it be progressed – e.g. full panel, Working group, site visit)</b>
Positive SRB end of year evaluations				
Develop proposals for neighbourhood management pilots				
Support implementation of nine LNP Neighbourhood Plans and develop options for neighbourhood management				

**Supported Housing priorities**

<b>Directorate Work Theme</b>	<b>Proposal for Scrutiny (Topic or Service)</b>	<b>Reasoning (Why might scrutiny add value)</b>	<b>Desired Outcome (What are we seeking to achieve)</b>	<b>Preferred Scrutiny Method (How should it be progressed – e.g. full panel, working group, site visit)</b>
5% reduction in homelessness through introduction of a range of prevention initiatives				
Published strategy for travellers and gypsies		.		
Withdrawal from the asylum seeker contractual arrangements with NASS by December 2005		.		
Remodel NCO service and divide existing contract into two parts thereby creating new service to a broader range of clients				
Delivery of all actions within the CPA Inspection Plan in relation to supported housing				

**Supported Housing priorities (continued)**

<b>Directorate Work Theme</b>	<b>Proposal for Scrutiny (Topic or Service)</b>	<b>Reasoning (Why is Scrutiny needed)</b>	<b>Desired Outcome (What are we seeking to achieve)</b>	<b>Preferred Scrutiny Method (How should it be progressed – e.g. full panel, Working group, site visit)</b>
Redesign Housing Advice Service				
Improve travellers site via delivery of capital investment programme				
Revise Homeless strategy				
Develop cross divisional protocols				
Improve information technology systems				



### Scoping of Work Programme - Criteria for Selection

No.	Criteria	Reasoning behind criteria	Explanation of Criteria
1	Issue identified by councillors as a key issue for public scrutiny	Issue which adversely affects public services and possibly a matter which will restrict achievement of council's vision.	Councillors have received feedback via LNPs; Member surgeries; personal experience. Issue identified is one which affects local service not being provided or is felt to be ineffective.
2	Issue raised by internal / external audit	Essential to review to achieve effective resolution to concerns raised	Audit investigation identifies a problem in service / behaviour, etc...
3	General public dissatisfaction with service	Complaints received, likely to restrict achievement of vision and CPA rating of service	General public have expressed their dissatisfaction with service and require its improvement
4	Issue raised as important by the Council's partners (i.e. LNP, CEN, WBSP, NHS)	Review likely to strengthen joint working with our partners to deliver the overall community strategy for the Borough.	Council's partners have identified areas or services which are in need of joint attention.
5	Performance indicators and benchmarking has identified service as a poor performing one or where performance has radically declined or improved	Opportunity to review service and improve CPA rating, and learn from and share experience	Performance reviews of current service and investigations of similar services produced elsewhere have identified the need to improve the service we provide.
6	Service has shown pattern of budgetary overspend / under spend	Need to ensure resources are being placed behind clear priorities.	Budget allocation for the service has been exceeded on number of occasions
7	Issue has high risk impact on equality / health and safety	Allows focus on issues that matter to citizens by way of informing policy	Quality of Service \ Policy in question could impinge on level of provision
8	Local media has highlighted issue	Matter of public concern	Media – newspapers, radio. Have created wide public interest in issue.
9	Issue is a central Government priority area and therefore affected by government guidance or legislation	Essential for council to seek local views through public consultation and using its telescopic eye to scrutinise the governments proposals and establish possible joint working with other councils	Issue has been identified via consultation document seeking views of local authority on proposals
10	Issue is critical to securing a	Necessity to review service and steer CPA	CPA has graded service to a particular level,

	successful CPA outcome.	assessment to a positive result	which is against the aim set by the authority
<b>No.</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Reasoning behind criteria</b>	<b>Explanation of Criteria</b>
11	Issue is subject to modernisation / change or is a new area of work to the Council and its' partners	Method of cementing councils duty to review change, particularly for services in health service	Health Service Partner, Government, Executive seek to change service
12	Issue is identified in the Forward Plan for Cabinet decision and identified from list of items to be decided by officer with delegated authority	Opportunity for Panel to review and contribute to discussion making process, policy making and affect CPA rating.	Executive / Officer Forward plan sets out items earmarked for future decisions.

Note:

1. Issues which can be resolved without scrutiny panels intervention and are part of a performance review within the previous or next 12 months need not be scrutinised. Issues which are being scrutinised elsewhere can be reviewed on a joint basis if appropriate.
2. Full consideration should be given to planning timescales for each review identified on the work programme. Timescales play a crucial role in the reviews life cycle; it avoids bottle necks and delays. A project management process known as a "Milestone Calendar" can be adopted. It identifies key stages in the project/review and with the aid of times from the planning process and completion date from the terms of reference; the times by which they are to complete are listed.

Set out below is an example of such a process.

Milestone Calendar

Review: Teenage Pregnancy rates in Walsall.

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Identify issue for scrutiny	July 2005
Scope review / identify leaders/ process / visits/ witnesses / resources etc	August 2005
In depth Scrutiny / identify problems and solutions	September 2005
Commence planning of review document	January 2006
Complete review document	February 2006
Submit review document to parent body	March 2006

### Prioritising and Weighting

No.	Criteria	Score
1	Issue identified by councillors as a key issue for public scrutiny	
2	Issue raised by internal / external audit	
3	General public dissatisfaction with service	
4	Issue raised as important by the Council's partners (i.e. LNP, CEN, WBSP, NHS)	
5	Performance indicators and benchmarking has identified service as a poor performing one or where performance has radically declined or improved	
6	Service has shown pattern of budgetary overspend / under spend	
7	Issue has high risk impact on equality / health and safety	
8	Local media has highlighted issue	
9	Issue is a central Government priority area and therefore affected by government guidance or legislation	
10	Issue is critical to securing a successful CPA outcome.	
11	Issue is subject to modernisation / change or is a new area of work to the Council and its' partners	
12	Issue is identified in the Forward Plan for Cabinet decision and identified from list of items to be decided by officer with delegated authority	
<b>Score A</b>		

	<b>Weighting factor</b>
<b>Achievability of review within 12 months</b>	3 Achievable 2 Marginal 1 Unachievable 0 Not Applicable
<b>Score B</b>	
	<b>Weighting factor</b>
<b>Impact on Council's Vision</b>	5 Achieves vision 4 High impact 3 Neutral impact 2 Minimum impact 1 Little or no impact
<b>Score C</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>Score A x Score B x Score C =</b>