

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Decision Maker: Executive and Resources PDS Committee

Date: 14th June 2012

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13

Contact Officer: Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager
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Chief Officer: Mark Bowen, Director of Resources

Ward: N/A

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report offers the Committee the opportunity to consider its work programme, including scheduled meetings and all PDS working groups. The Committee has nine meetings scheduled during 2012/13 – the dates are set out in Appendix 1.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is requested to consider -

- (a) its work programme schedule (paragraphs 3.1 – 3.3 and appendix 1);
- (b) the progress of PDS Working Groups (paragraphs 3.4 – 3.5 and appendix 2)
- (c) the draft terms of reference for the proposed Local Government Finance Working Group and the membership of the group (paragraph 3.6.)

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy. All PDS Committees receive a report on their work programmes at each meeting.
 2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No cost
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
 4. Total current budget for this head: £344,054 (controllable budget)
 5. Source of funding: Existing budgets
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): There are 8 posts (7.22 fte) in the Democratic Services Team.
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Maintaining the Committee's work programme usually takes less than an hour per meeting.
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: No statutory requirement or Government guidance.
 2. Call-in: Call-in is not applicable. The report does not involve an executive decision.
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): This report is intended primarily for Members of this Committee to use in controlling their on-going work.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

Meeting Schedule

- 3.1 Each PDS Committee determines its own work programme, balancing the roles of –
- holding the Executive to account
 - policy development and review
 - external scrutiny

This Committee has the additional role of providing a lead on scrutiny issues and coordinating PDS work.

- 3.2 PDS Committees need to prioritise their key issues. The work programme also needs to allow room for items that arise through the year, including Member requests, call-ins and referrals from other Committees. Committees need to ensure that their workloads are realistic and balanced, allowing sufficient time for important issues to be properly scrutinised. Members also need to consider the most appropriate means to pursue each issue – the current overview and scrutiny arrangements offer a variety of approaches, whether through a report to a meeting, a time-limited working group review, a presentation, a meeting focused on a single key issue or any other method.
- 3.3 A schedule of the Committee's meetings in 2012/13 is attached at Appendix 1. The timing of meetings is tied to the need to pre-scrutinise Executive agendas. Provisional dates for question and answer sessions with the Leader, Resources Portfolio Holder and Chief Executive are included - these are subject to confirmation.

Working Groups

- 3.4 In Appendix 2, PDS Working Groups and other sub-groups are set out. The Policy Development and Scrutiny Toolkit suggests that each Committee should aim to carry out no more than two or three full scale reviews each year, and it offers guidance and techniques for prioritising reviews.
- 3.5 In recent years, the Committee has examined a number of issues through its Working Groups. Part of the Committee's workload may include follow-up work on some of these reviews.
- 3.6 Officers have prepared draft terms of reference for a Working Group to look at the impact in Bromley of the Government's forthcoming policy changes to local government finance –

Local Government Finance Working Group: Draft Terms of Reference

- (1) To consider the impact for Bromley of the proposals arising from the Government's Local Government Resource Review which are to be implemented from 2013/14 onwards, in particular the three main strands -
- (i) Localisation of Business Rates;
 - (ii) Localisation of Council Tax Benefit;
 - (iii) Community Budgets.
- (2) To bring forward proposals and recommendations for implementation in Bromley in response to the government proposals.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy/Financial/Legal/Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Previous Work Programme reports.

COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE 2012/13

Meeting 1: Thursday 17th May 2012

Standard items (Matters Arising/Forward Plan/PDS Updates/Work Programme)
HR Update

Meeting 2: Thursday 14th June 2012

Standard items (Matters Arising/Forward Plan/PDS Updates/Work Programme)
IT Contract Monitoring
Annual PDS Report 2011/12
HR Issues – follow up

Meeting 3: Wednesday 18th July 2012

Standard items (Matters Arising/Forward Plan/PDS Updates/Work Programme)
Housing Benefits and Revenues Monitoring Reports
Section 106 Monitoring Report
Blue Badge Fraud Enforcement
Report of the Big Society Working Group
Scrutiny of the Resources Portfolio Holder?

Meeting 4: Thursday 6th September 2012

Standard items (Matters Arising/Forward Plan/PDS Updates/Work Programme)
Contracts Register
Scrutiny of the Leader?

Meeting 5: Thursday 18th October 2012

Standard items (Matters Arising/Forward Plan/PDS Updates/Work Programme)
Scrutiny of the Chief Executive?

Meeting 6: Wednesday 21st November 2012

Standard items (Matters Arising/Forward Plan/PDS Updates/Work Programme)
Scrutiny of the Resources Portfolio Holder?

Meeting 7: Thursday 3rd January 2013

Standard items (Matters Arising/Forward Plan/PDS Updates/Work Programme)

Meeting 8: Thursday 31st January 2013

Standard items (Matters Arising/Forward Plan/PDS Updates/Work Programme)
Housing Benefits and Revenues Monitoring Reports
Scrutiny of the Leader?

Meeting 9: Wednesday 27th March 2013

Standard items (Matters Arising/Forward Plan/PDS Updates/Work Programme)
Annual PDS Report 2012/13
Scrutiny of the Chief Executive?

PDS WORKING GROUPS 2012/13

SUBJECT	DURATION	MEMBERSHIP
EXECUTIVE & RESOURCES PDS		
Big Society	January to June 2012 – provisionally due to report to the PDS Committee on 18 th July 2012.	Cllrs Ruth Bennett, Richard Scoates, Nicholas Bennett, Kathy Bance and Russell Mellor
Changes to Local Government Finance		
CARE SERVICES PDS (1 st PDS meeting on 19 th June)		
Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee	Ongoing – meetings are scheduled twice a year (11 th July 2012 and 31 st January 2013)	All PDS Members
Accommodation and Care for Older People (formerly Care Homes Reference Group)	Ongoing	Cllrs Ruth Bennett, Charles Rideout, Angela Clayton Turner, Leslie Marks, Ray Clay, Ken Keepen, Marion Purl & Barbara Campedelli
EDUCATION PDS (1 st PDS meeting on 12 th June)		
ENVIRONMENT PDS (1 st PDS meeting on 3 rd July)		
Waste Minimisation & Recycling	On-going	Cllrs William Huntington-Thresher, Reg Adams, Lydia Buttinger & Samaris Huntington-Thresher
Transport Statement Working Group	On-going	Cllrs William Huntington-Thresher, Nicholas Bennett, Ellie Harmer, David Jefferys and Nicholas Milner

Highway Assets Working Group	On-going	Cllrs William Huntington-Thresher, Samaris Huntington-Thresher, Julian Grainger and David Hastings
PUBLIC PROTECTION & SAFETY PDS (1 st PDS meeting on 31 st May – no sub-groups appointed at present)		
RENEWAL & RECREATION PDS (1 st PDS meeting on 10 th July)		
Beckenham & West Wickham Town Centres Working Group	On-going – holding monthly meetings. Interim report to R&R PDS Committee on 27 th March 2012.	Cllrs Michael Tickner, Julian Benington, Nicholas Bennett, Peter Fookes, Sarah Phillips and Stephen Wells