

REPORT: Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 5th January 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Corporate and Policy

SUBJECT: Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board
Work Programme 2010/11

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE AND CONTENT OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is the first step in developing a work programme of Topics for the Board to examine in 2010/11. While the Board ultimately determines its own Topics, suggestions for Topics to be considered may also come from a variety of other sources in addition to Members of the Board themselves, including members of the Council's Executive, other non-Executive Members, officers, the public, partner and other organisations, performance data and inspections.
- 1.2 The key tasks for Board Members are:
- to suggest and gather Topic ideas on issues relevant to the Board's remit:
 - to develop and prioritise a shortlist of possible Topics for examination in 2010/11, bearing in mind the Council's agreed selection criteria (Annex 1)
 - to decide on a work programme of 2 or 3 Topics to be undertaken in the next municipal year.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: that the Policy and Performance Board

- (1) Put forward and debate its initial suggestions for Topics to be included in the Board's 2010/11 work programme**
- (2) Develop and informally consult on a shortlist of its own and others' 2010/11 Topic suggestions ahead of the Board's meeting on February 23 2010, bearing in mind the Council's Topic selection criteria**
- (3) Decide at its February 23 2010 meeting on a work programme of 2 or 3 Topics to be examined in 2010/11.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Annex 1 – Topic selection checklist

- 3.1 Prior to determining their preferred Topics, the PPB may wish to take soundings from relevant Executive Board portfolio holders, the SSP and other key partners.

Annex 1

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Topic Selection Checklist

This checklist leads the user through a reasoning process to identify a) why a topic should be explored and b) whether it makes sense to examine it through the overview and scrutiny process. More “yeses” indicate a stronger case for selecting the Topic.

#	CRITERION	Yes/No
<i>Why? Evidence for why a topic should be explored and included in the work programme</i>		
1	Is the Topic directly aligned with and have significant implications for at least 1 of Halton's 5 strategic priorities & related objectives/PIs, and/or a key central government priority?	
2	Does the Topic address an identified need or issue?	
3	Is there a high level of public interest or concern about the Topic e.g. apparent from consultation, complaints or the local press	
4	Has the Topic been identified through performance monitoring e.g. PIs indicating an area of poor performance with scope for improvement?	
5	Has the Topic been raised as an issue requiring further examination through a review, inspection or assessment, or by the auditor?	
6	Is the Topic area likely to have a major impact on resources or be significantly affected by financial or other resource problems e.g. a pattern of major overspending or persisting staffing difficulties that could undermine performance?	
7	Has some recent development or change created a need to look at the Topic e.g. new government guidance/legislation, or new research findings?	
8	Would there be significant risks to the organisation and the community as a result of <u>not</u> examining this topic?	

Whether? Reasons affecting whether it makes sense to examine an identified topic

9	Scope for impact - Is the Topic something the Council can actually influence, directly or via its partners? Can we make a difference?	
10	Outcomes – Are there clear improvement outcomes (not specific answers) in mind from examining the Topic and are they likely to be achievable?	
11	Cost: benefit - are the benefits of working on the Topic likely to outweigh the costs, making investment of time & effort worthwhile?	
12	Are PPBs the best way to add value in this Topic area? Can they make a distinctive contribution?	
13	Does the organisation have the capacity to progress this Topic? (e.g. is it related to other review or work peaks that would place an unacceptable load on a particular officer or team?)	
14	Can PPBs contribute meaningfully given the time available?	