



14 May 2012

Annual Council

Subject: Challenge and Improvement Committee Annual Report 2011-12 and Work Plan 2012-13

Report by:

Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

The report sets out details of the work undertaken by the Challenge and Improvement Committee for the year 2011-12 and also the proposed work plan for 2012-13.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That Members note the Challenge and Improvement Committee Annual Report 2011-12.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:
None arising as a result of this report.

Financial :
None arising as a result of this report.

Staffing :
None arising as a result of this report.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :
None arising as a result of this report.

Risk Assessment :
N/A.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :
None arising as a result of this report.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
Previous Challenge and Improvement Committee reports and minutes available through the Council's Committee Admin system

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

Yes No

Key Decision:

Yes No

1. Introduction

The Council's Constitution Article 7 para 7.6 states that The Challenge and Improvement Committee must report annually to the Council on both its proposed work plan and its work in the preceding year.

2. Chairman's Report

ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL – CIVIC YEAR 2011 – 2012

The Challenge and improvement Committee is the successor to Performance Management and Scrutiny Committee.

The Ethos of Challenge and Improvement is Encourage, Improve and if all else fails CHALLENGE!

I believe we share a common ideal of “if it ain't broke, don't fix it”
“ If it is broke then we are the 5th Calvary appearing over the brow of the hill –
here to help ! “

The committee owes much to Member Forum, where many ideas are spawned, discussed, bounced around and become possibilities that can be dealt with in a formal committee setting. (Though heaven forbid that C&I should become too formal)

In the period since its inception we have:

- Deliberated over new ways of working, which includes staff flexibility, increased use of IT and initiatives like hot desking.
- Led on paperless working, for both Members and officers, reducing printing and postage costs..
- Created a working party to investigate renewable energy and created a statement of the Council's aims through The Renewable Energy Task and Finish Group. This initiative links well with the Council's Corporate Priority of “A green district where people want to work, live and visit.”
- Assisted and advised on resolving problems at GAPA
- Monitored innumerable reports
- Have monitored improvements in Planning Enforcement.
- Taking a keen interest in improved Broadband, particularly where it can assist economic development and further our paperless ambitions with town and parish councils. This initiative links well with the Council's Corporate Priority of “An accessible and connected district where all have the best opportunities in life to help themselves and others.”
- Received updates on new legislation, reforms, changes to benefits and housing regimes
- Instigated a campaign to counter increasing incidents of dog fouling, littering and flytipping

I am indebted to the members of committee who all share the enthusiasm for improvements and volunteer to create the very successful hard working task and finish groups, which show a true partnership approach by officers and Members.

I am also very grateful for the energy and enthusiasm from all our officers, at all levels, who have shown zeal for these new ways of working and the running of the committee.

Looking forward to the coming year, we intend to continue supporting members, committees and the Council and find ways to ensure we are not only efficient and cost effective but more importantly customer friendly.

Initiatives already proposed for the coming year include working groups to consider issues with Broadband access; "Are we open for Business?"; and also waste issues. As well as the regular monitoring that is carried out on things like Planning Enforcement, Staff Sickness statistics etc. the Committee will endeavour to take on projects referred to it by the Council's other Committees.

Alan Caine – Chairman, Challenge and Improvement Committee