



CHESTERFIELD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Overview & Scrutiny Work Programming

Corporate Cabinet & CMT away-day - 8.11.16

Our Overview & Scrutiny Journey

- CfPS Award 2012 – shortlisted for Innovation
- Corporate Reviews – External 2011 / Internal 2014
- And we've been busy implementing changes ...
 - Building executive / scrutiny relationships
 - Pre-decision scrutiny focus
 - Development – members and officers
 - More robust work programming

Today's discussion :

- Remind ourselves of the O&S work programming process and activities for 2016/17
- Share key messages from work programming evaluation feedback
- Discuss improvement ideas and actions for 2017/18 work programming



Programming process & activities 2016/17:



- Early consultation with Cabinet Members and SMT/CMT for their best availability;
- Scheduled/planned 2 Work Programme Action Planning Days to take place after Council Plan and Budget approved by Council :
- **Action Planning Day 1 (8.3.16) :**
 - Involved Cabinet, O&S and all backbench members plus SMT/CMT;
 - Received 10 minute Cabinet Member presentations on key plans and priorities from all portfolios;
 - Opportunity for quick questions and clarifications;
 - Everyone worked in small/mixed groups to discuss and agree long list of potential business items for scrutiny, each group agreeing up to 5 items only, and specifying those suitable for Scrutiny Project Group work;
 - Outputs and next steps summarised by O&S Chair

... process & activities 2016/17 – cont'd

- **Action Planning Day 2 (19.4.16) :**
 - Involved O&S and other non-executive members;
 - Worked in small groups to prioritise and score the long list of business items from Action Planning Day 1 - used scoring methodology & specifically agreed top 5 for Scrutiny Project Group work ;
 - Worked in small groups with Gantt charts to timetable the prioritised items into one overarching O&S work programme.
- Final formulation of draft work programme;
- Consultation of draft work programme;
- Reported proposed work programme to OPSF May 2016 for approval/adoption.
- Promoted the approved work programme by intranet and email.

Evaluation feedback & key messages



- **What were the best bits :**

- “Presentations were good”, “Discussions were interesting”;
- “Looking through suggested areas of interest to suggest possible work areas – the discussions within the group, sharing ideas”.
- “Working in groups. Opportunity for scrutiny members, other members, officers and cabinet/assistant members to work together. We need more of this.”
- “Excellent collaborative working”, “Fantastic engagement levels”.
- “Enjoyed working with colleagues you don’t normally get to see”
- “Best learning in 50 years”, “ A really enjoyable and useful event”.

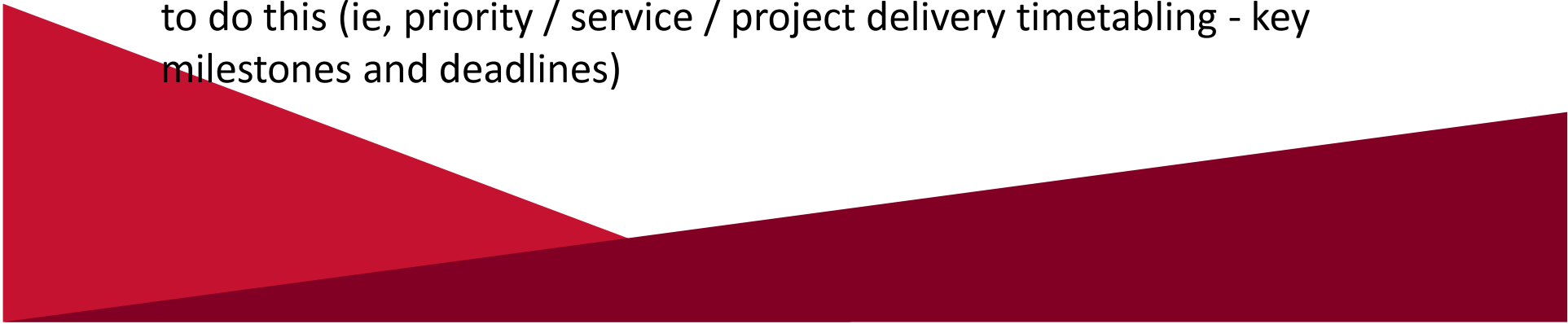
- **What could improve it :**

- “Helpful if more cabinet colleagues could attend”
- “More time!”, “A bit rushed, allow more time for presentation feedback”
- “Tighter more focussed presentations”, “Keeping to time”
- General attendance levels.

Improvement ideas and actions ...

- What do you think worked well ?
 - Timing was good in relation to Council priority setting and budget setting process
 - Improved understanding regarding areas of the borough's wider functions.
 - The mix of people, and empowered wider involvement
 - The timings for the Action Day Programme worked well (on the day)
 - The cross cutting approach to the Action Day / table group discussions which cut across services.

Improvement ideas and actions ...

- What changes do you think could be made to make it even better for 2017/18 and beyond ?
 - For OSC's to undertake oversight of mandatory services ie Health and Safety / Information & Data protection
 - Executive members want to help inform the OSC work programme and timetable but they need senior officers to provide them with information to do this (ie, priority / service / project delivery timetabling - key milestones and deadlines)
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O&S Management Team thoughts ...

- Better alignment of work programme planning with corporate priorities and budget setting timetables;
- Prioritise the long list - but be strict about the short list (members can't have everything); (.. having the new structure in place should help make a difference);
- More time after work programme planning to formulate and consult before OPSF approval (to consult on final proposal, to ensure timetabling accuracy, to align resources);

O&S Work Programming 2017/18

Your further thoughts ? ...

OPSF should consider starting the process earlier in the year, ie January, to run parallel with the corporate priority planning/setting process.

Next Steps ?

- Consult Overview & Performance Scrutiny Forum (discussion scheduled for 22.11.16)

Then ? ...

