

REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEM



	Title of Work Programme Item	Social Fund replacement
2	Responsible Director (s)	Carole Burgoyne (Director of People)
3	Responsible Officer Tel No.	Peter Aley (Head of Safer Communities) Telephone Ext 4044
4	Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Chris Penberthy (Portfolio holder for Cooperatives and Community Development)
5	Objectives	To advise the Council on the delivery options for the new scheme.
6	Who will benefit?	In April 2013 the Social Fund (SF) is going to be abolished. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will hand partial funding to Local Authorities (LA) to design and deliver a localised welfare assistance scheme. Funding is based on figures from 2005/6 and 2010/11 and PCC will have approximately £750,000 to spend. The scrutiny panel will have the opportunity to influence how this money should and could be spent on the new Social Fund replacement scheme.
7	Criteria for Choosing Topics (see table at end of document)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High budgetary commitment • New government guidance or legislation • Issue consistently identified by Members as key through constituency activity • Public interest issue covered in local media
8	What will happen if we don't do this review?	This review enables us to get as wide a consultation base as possible. Without this review, the consultation audience would be good, but not as varied.
9	What are we going to do?	Task and finish group.
10	How are we going to do it? (witnesses, site visits, background information etc.)	Background information Scrutiny reports supplied by officers Witnesses.
11	What we won't do.	Scrutinise the principles of the new scheme as this would have already been agreed by Cabinet in August 2012.

12	Timetable & Key Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of scheme – cabinet planning – 28th August 2012 Stakeholder consultation – August to September 2012 Delivery method – cabinet planning – 27th November 2012 Final decision on overall scheme – Cabinet – 15th Jan 2013 Social Fund scheme delivered from PCC – 1st April 2013
13	Links to other projects or initiatives / plans	This is part of the Welfare Reform big ticket item in the new Corporate Plan
14	Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel / Membership if Task and Finish Group (to be decided by OSP before submission to OMB)	To be decided.
15	Where will the report go? Who will make the final decision	Customers and Communities – 7 November 2012 Cabinet – 13 November 2012 or 15 January 2013
16	Resources (staffing, research, experts, sites visits and so on)	Staffing from across several departments Scrutiny reports supplied by officers Witnesses.
17	Is this part of a statutory responsibility on the panel?	N/A
18	Should any other panel be involved in this review? If so who and why?	The Scrutiny Management Board is undertaking a task and finish group on the overall Welfare Reform programme and it may be appropriate that this piece of work is aligned with that.
19	Will the task and finish group benefit from co-opting any person(s) onto the panel.	Yes – Co-opted person to be decided.
20	How does this link to corporate priorities?	The Social Fund replacement scheme has direct links with Reducing inequalities, and Value for Communities.

Criteria for review

(Items would be expected to meet at least two of the following criteria)

- Corporate priority area
- Poor performing service (evidence from PIs, benchmarking or where high levels of dissatisfaction from customers are recorded)
- High budgetary commitment
- Pattern of not reaching budget targets
- Issue raised by external audit, management letter, inspection report
- New government guidance or legislation
- Issue consistently identified by Members as key through constituency activity
- Public interest issue covered in local media