

Policy and Review Committee

A variation to last years template report setting out the end of year observations, comments, findings and recommendations made by each Overview and Scrutiny Committee in its 2009 – 2010 work programme is currently being circulated amongst the Chairs and Vice Chairs of each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The work that has been completed throughout the year will be included with details of the process used, their successes or otherwise in delivering their work, along with suggestions as to how to develop and improve the scrutiny process. Some of this work will be discussed at the last meeting of the Policy and Review Committee on the 28th April; however the real debate on these issues will be taking place at the Annual Review scheduled for the 24th May.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees

All Committees have now held their last round of meetings, albeit Regeneration and Technical Overview and Scrutiny Committee were unable to go ahead as not enough Members were available. For those Committees that have gone ahead the main business at each was to agree a final set of recommendations for submission to the Policy and Review Committee. The number of recommendations varied from Committee to Committee, however in all cases they were detailed and in most cases reflected the amount of work put in throughout the duration of each review. These recommendations once signed off by Policy and Review will be sent separately for comment to their respective Executive Member for a formal response and follow up later in the year.

Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Had recommendations on

- the Gateway Review,
- Asset Management and
- ICT Transformation

Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Had recommendations on topics of

- poverty,
- attainment
- youth service

Regeneration and Technical Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This Committee had recommendations on;

- Business advice
- Markets
- Town centre
- Highways.

Sustainable Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Had recommendations on three Executive Members reporting to the same Committee on the following topics;

- Customer services
- Severe weather
- Alley gating
- "Celebrate"
- Turton tower
- Neighbourhood boards
- Landlord licensing
- Older peoples housing strategy
- Darwen leisure centre

Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This Committee had recommendations on the following topics

- Health and Well Being - Alcohol Strategy
- Alcohol – Minimum Price for Alcohol
- Day Care Services
- Children's Dentistry
- The Executive Member - financial reporting and accountability.

Annual Review

As outlined in the opening remarks, this meeting will take place on the 24th May, where each Committee will not only demonstrate the work it has completed this year, but it is anticipated that further debate will take place on the current review of Scrutiny, so that we are able to build a considered view of what will be fit for purpose and fit for future moving forwards. At a time where resources are limited and under scrutiny themselves, the importance of demonstrating value added has never been higher; it is vital therefore that the way in which the Executive is held to account achieves demonstrable outcomes for the resources it is allocated.

Derek Hardman (Chair)

Jim Shorrocks (Vice Chair)