

REPORT OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR POLICY AND REVIEW COMMITTEE

Scrutiny Review.

As a key indicator of scrutiny needing to demonstrate *its* own contribution to added value and improved outcomes for the work that *it* does and the differences *it* makes, for expediency members of the Policy and Review Committee agreed to delegate the ongoing Review of Scrutiny to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee in conjunction with political Group Leaders.

Questioning – holding the Executive to account.

At the August meeting of Policy and Review, Members were reminded that, as far back as August 2004, Scrutiny had agreed to introduce a different approach to “effective questioning” and agreed to revive a series of “rules of engagement” for the Scrutiny function. This still forms the basis of a focus on improvement, added value and improved performance, and that the questioning of the Executive should highlight at least one of those key areas. This measure is timely as it was highlighted by Members in June that there were concerns about the number of service reviews taking place and their potential lack of involvement. The recommendations in a briefing paper that revisited the original questioning methodology Scrutiny would use meant the Committee agreed a series of core questions and a framework that could be asked of Executive members regarding these reviews in order to elicit comprehensive information.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Health scrutiny work programme:

- Minimum pricing of Alcohol.
- Social Enterprise Sub Group.
- Day Services Review (legacy item).

Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme:

- IT Transformation Programme (legacy item).
- The overall budget – more information on the overall Council budgetary position.
- Capita core and non core funding.
- Procurement – non capital.
RIPA – quarterly monitoring reports on its use and the annual review of the RIPA policy (note the Committee will not be involved in making decisions on specific authorisations).

Committee have received a formal response to their 2009/2010 recommendations on Gateway Review, Asset Management and ICT Transformation.

Sustainable Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Committee agreed that they would concentrate in the first part of the year on the Housing portfolio with particular regard for the issues highlighted by the Executive Member at the meeting. These issues include:

- Housing building targets
- Reuse of vacant houses and proactive action by the council in returning houses to the market
- Housing Market Renewal programmes and the way forward.
- Griffin area progress
- Matching need/demand with supply.
- Landlord licensing

Regeneration and Technical Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Committee agreed that for the Year they would look at the following topics:

- Budgets- the Committee agreed that they would look at the portfolio's budget in light of spending cuts and its potential effects on the services provided. Members will receive detailed information on this issue at each meeting of the Committee.
- Waste procurement- to look at the proposals being considered to deal with the boroughs waste.
- Transport infrastructure- to look at the infrastructure improvements to the borough and how effects of the reduced budgets will be managed.

Market Relocation – legacy item.

Graveyard capacity – potential legacy item topic

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- Disability; how schools meet the needs of disabled and special needs / gifted and talented
- Training into work and the transfer from the learning skills council
- Attainment; of pupils in the boroughs schools
- Progress on Building Schools for the Future
- How the Councils financial position effects the delivery of services
- Reviews on service delivery affecting children's services.
- Social Work Practice Pilot: Committee have discussed the Social Work Practice Pilot and asked that a visit be arranged for those Members who wished to attend to enable them to see the progress to date and discuss the anticipated outcomes.

The Youth Forum will look at Citizenship.