

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee North Warwickshire Area Committee

Date of Committee 24 January 2007

Report Title Consultation on Local Area Scrutiny

Summary This report seeks the views of the Area Committee on any appropriate topics for a local area scrutiny exercise.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No.

Background papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) N/A
- Other Elected Members Councillor Sweet
- Cabinet Member
- Chief Executive
- Legal Sarah Duxbury
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police

Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION NO

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

To Council

To Cabinet

To an O & S Committee Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Group 7 March 2006

To an Area Committee

Further Consultation

Agenda No

North Warwickshire Area Committee - 24 January 2007.

Consultation on Local Area Scrutiny

Report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development

Recommendation

That the Area Committee identifies any issue(s) that may be appropriate for a local area scrutiny exercise

1. Introduction

Council on the 31 October 2006 resolved

That the basis for the localities to be used for community meetings should be explored further but, at the very least, one local scrutiny exercise will be undertaken in each of the five area committee areas by 30 June 2007.

The Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Group is considering the potential process for selecting topics for local scrutiny at its meeting on 17 January 2007. In order to get the process moving Area Committees are being consulted during the January cycle on whether or not there are any particular 'hot' topics which in their view would be suitable for a local scrutiny exercise. These may be locality based rather than necessarily whole area issues.

Local scrutiny offers opportunities for joint scrutiny exercises with key partners and it is suggested that we should discuss this with district/borough councils and other partners. The Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Group will be considering the arrangements for consultation with key partners at its January meeting. When putting forward topics members of the Area Committee might wish to consider whether there are any particular issues which would benefit from a local joint scrutiny exercise.

The topics suggested will be reported back to the Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Group meeting on 7 March 2007.

2. What criteria should be used to select topics?

The Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Group is considering the basis for selecting topics at its meeting on 17 January 2007. It is suggested that the following is an appropriate basis for selection.

- Does this issue have a potential impact for significant section(s) of the population?
- Is it a matter of general public concern?
- Is the issue to be reviewed a key deliverable of a strategic and/or partnership plan?
- Is it a key performance area where the Council needs to improve?
- Is there a legislative requirement to undertake the review?

Secondly to ensure the exercise adds value/makes a difference members will need to consider whether it is practicable to undertake the review by asking the following questions-

- Are there adequate resources available to do the activity well?
- Is the overview and scrutiny activity timely?
- Is there a clear objective for scrutinising this topic?
- Is there evidence to support the need for overview and scrutiny?
- What are the likely benefits to the council and its customers?
- Are we likely to achieve a desired outcome?
- What are the potential risks?

DAVID CARTER
Strategic Director of
Performance and
Development

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04 January 2007