

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Overview And Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group  
**Date of Committee** 17 January 2007  
**Report Title** Developing Local Area Scrutiny  
**Summary** This report seeks views on the process for the selection of topics for a local area scrutiny exercise  
**For further information please contact:** Jane Pollard  
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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?** No.  
**Background papers**

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**

Details to be specified

- Other Committees  .....
- Local Member(s)  N/A
- Other Elected Members  Cllr Ken Browne
- Cabinet Member  Cllr Bob Stevens
- Chief Executive  Jim Graham
- Legal  Sarah Duxbury
- Finance  .....
- Other Chief Officers  David Carter
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....
- Police  .....
- Other Bodies/Individuals  .....

**FINAL DECISION**    **No**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Details to be specified

- |  |                                     |   |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| Further consideration by<br>this Committee | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 7 March 2007                              |
| To Council                                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....                                     |
| To Cabinet                                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....                                     |
| To an O & S Committee                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | .....                                     |
| To an Area Committee                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Area committees during January 2007 cycle |
| Further Consultation                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | To be agreed                              |

## Agenda No

# Overview And Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group - 17 January 2007.

## Developing Local Area Scrutiny

### Report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development

#### Recommendation

That the Group approves the suggested process for selecting topics for local area scrutiny

#### 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.

In order to get the process moving it suggested that Area Committees are consulted during the January cycle on whether or not there are any particular 'hot' topics which would be suitable for a local scrutiny exercise. These may be locality based rather than necessarily whole area issues.

#### 2. What level of consultation should be undertaken?

The Group is asked to consider

- Local area scrutiny presents potential opportunities for some joint scrutiny with our key partners. It is suggested that we should discuss this with district/borough councils and other partners.
- If the Area Committees are consulted in their January cycle the outcome of the consultation could be reported back to a meeting of this group in March suggesting topic(s).

A report on proposals for local area scrutiny could then go to the Area Committees during their March cycle or an appropriate meeting.

### **3. What criteria should be used to select topics?**

Elsewhere on this agenda (Developing the Work Programme) there are some suggested criteria for selection of topics for review – it is suggested that these are appropriate for selection of topics at a local level although the geographical area is smaller. The criteria are

- 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

Shire Hall  
Warwick

28 December 2006

