

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee	Overview And Scrutiny Coordinating Group
Date of Committee	12th September 2007
Report Title	Implementing the Outcomes of the Scrutiny Review -Update on Action Plan
Summary	This report updates members on progress with the action plan.
For further information please contact:	Jane Pollard Overview and Scrutiny Manager Tel: 01926 412565 janepollard@warwickshire.gov.uk
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 | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Local Member(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A |
| Other Elected Members | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cllr Ken Browne..... |
| Cabinet Member | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Chief Executive | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Legal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Sarah Duxbury |
| Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Other Chief Officers | <input type="checkbox"/> | David Carter |
| District Councils | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Health Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Police | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Other Bodies/Individuals | <input type="checkbox"/> | Monica Fogarty, Janet Purcell |

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

To Council

To Cabinet

To an O & S Committee

To an Area Committee

Further Consultation

Agenda No 4

Overview And Scrutiny Coordinating Group - 12 September 2007.

Implementing the Outcomes of the Scrutiny Review - Update on Action Plan

Report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development

Recommendation

That the Group considers the progress which has been made in relation to the current Action Plan.

That the Group considers whether or not there are any other particular issues it would like to take forward over the next 12 months.

A copy of the agreed Action Plan is attached as an Appendix. Progress to date includes the following

- (a) Core work programme was agreed by Council on 15th May 2007
- (b) Topics for local area scrutiny have been selected, two areas have had their first scoping meetings, however the remaining three areas which involve joint panels have not been able to set dates as yet. In relation to Warwick district the original topic of 'social care for the elderly has been put on hold pending a joint review in relation to flooding in the area.
- (c) Performance evaluation framework for the overview and scrutiny has been agreed and arrangements are now in place to gather the evidence.
- (d) New performance reporting arrangements have been agreed based on the new report card system and the Group will be considering a sample report elsewhere on the agenda.
- (e) Presentations have been given to Directorate Managers conferences about the new arrangements for overview and scrutiny. These have been well received and the first 'scrutiny drop-in' session was held for officers on 27 July 2007 and further sessions are planned for 31 August and 28 September 2007. These are open to all staff who wish to understand more about the role of the overview and scrutiny committees.

- (f) It has been agreed that the arrangements for future joint scrutiny will be considered as part of the LAA governance review due to take place after the first year of operation of the LAA. This could include considering the establishment of a joint panel (possibly meeting once or twice a year) to agree areas / issues for joint scrutiny, in consultation with partners and taking into account issues being raised at a local level. This review is due to be undertaken during 2008 as approved by the Steering Group.
- (g) Following Cabinet's approval of the Member Development Strategy in May, a Programme of activities is being put together to meet both the individual needs identified by Members and to assist Members in their changing roles (for example those arising from the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill). A number of activities will be open to/in conjunction with our district and borough partners.
- (h) Consultation on the establishment of localities is underway and the outcome of that consultation and the proposed approach to locality working is scheduled for Cabinet on 18 October 2007. The arrangements once agreed will form an essential part of the infrastructure for future local area scrutiny.
- (i) Improvements to the website have been delayed and it is hoped to move these forward over the next 3 months.
- (j) Leaflets for managers, partners and the public have been drafted. These will mainly be produced in electronic format, which people can download. In order to keep costs down only a limited number of copies will be printed.
- (k) A best practice visit to Staffordshire County Council took place on 1 June 2007, Councillor Chattaway attended. This visit was to look at their approach to partnership scrutiny, as it is one of the few councils with a dedicated body to carry out this type of scrutiny. We hope to report to the November meeting on suggested arrangements for partnership scrutiny based on best practice.
- (l) Other best practice visits potentially in the pipeline are
- Tuesday 24th September Oxfordshire County Council - Scrutiny at Oxfordshire County Council is regarded as an example of best practice and is regularly referred to within CfPS publications and at conferences.
 - Durham County Council - Regarded as best practice in relation to Budget Scrutiny. This visit will be organised for some time in early December 2007
 - Shropshire County Council - Regarded as best practice in relation to Local Area Scrutiny. This visit will be organised for some time in January 2008.

- West Midlands Regional Assembly - opportunity to learn from the regional assembly approach to scrutiny - date to be arranged.
- (m) There have been some good examples of members improving their levels of engagement with overview and scrutiny, through visits to user groups, representative groups and various facilities. Cllrs Compton and Doody produced their own scrutiny report following a visit to Lower Furlong Home and Cllr Peter Barnes has offered to do a presentation to the Economic Development OSC on the Common Agricultural Policy.
- (n) We have had good levels of engagement from partner agencies and other representative bodies with the various scrutiny exercises that have taken place. Between April and July this year some 72 people from external agencies/organisations have attended the main committees to contribute, not counting those involved with the panels.

DAVID CARTER
Strategic Director of Performance
and Development
Shire Hall
Warwick
15 August 2007

Implementing the Outcomes of the Scrutiny Review – Action Plan

Issue	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Developing the work programme												
Core programme	Core Work programme agreed by Council 15 th May 2007					Core issues scheduled into appropriate OSC committee work programmes						
Criteria for choosing reviews	Criteria agreed		Implementation of agreed criteria									
LAA Governance	Arrangements agreed		Implementation of agreed arrangements									
LAA Joint OSC bodies	Membership of bodies agreed (Arrangements to be discussed as part of review of LAA in 2008)					Implementation of agreed monitoring arrangements						
LAA outcomes	Incorporation into WCC OSC work programmes		Implementation of agreed monitoring arrangements (First 12 months PSB to identify any areas for joint scrutiny)									
Joint scrutiny topics	Agreeing arrangements for consultation		Implementation of agreed arrangements									
Joint Scrutiny reviews	Each OSC to identify appropriate topics as part of their ongoing review of their work programmes											
Developing Local Area Scrutiny												
Defining localities	Agreeing the localities in Warwickshire		Agreeing the form and programme for community meetings		Implementation							
Local Area Scrutiny Reviews	Consultation on topics		Setting up 5 specific reviews			Reporting back on the 5 specific reviews						
Role of Area Committees and Scrutiny	Member discussions						Formalising the arrangements					

Implementing the Outcomes of the Scrutiny Review – Action Plan

Issue	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Performance Monitoring												
Performance Management System	Member - officer training		Ongoing use of new system to support reviews									
Standard Performance Reporting	Agreement over standard performance reports		Implement agreed arrangements									
Development of performance management system for overview and scrutiny	Framework agreed				Implementation							
Member Development												
Analysis of individual needs	Member interviews											
Developing the programme	Developing the programme				Implementation							
Raising the profile												
Annual reports to Council –schedule and reformatting	For agree ment	Implementation of rolling programme										
Standard formats for overview and scrutiny reviews -agreed	Implementation ongoing											
Leaflets for Managers, Members, Partners and Public.	Leaflets Produced and printed											
Training for Officers	Programme developed		Implementation									
Submissions of completed reviews to CfPS	Ongoing implementation											
Improvements to Website	Agreeing changes		Ongoing implementation									
Articles in Council publications	Ongoing implementation											