

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

**Name of Committee** Overview And Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group

**Date of Committee** 19th November 2008

**Report Title** Half Year Performance Report

**Summary** To receive information about the performance of the Overview and Scrutiny function during the first two quarters of 2008/09.

**For further information please contact:** Michelle McHugh  
Interim Overview and Scrutiny Manager  
Tel: 01926 412144  
michellemchugh@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  .....
- Local Member(s)  .....
- Other Elected Members  Cllr Grant, Chair of OSCG
- Cabinet Member  .....
- Chief Executive  .....
- Legal  Jane Pollard, Corporate Legal Services Manager
- Finance  .....
- Other Strategic Directors  David Carter - Strategic Director for Performance and Development
- District Councils  .....
- Health Authority  .....

Police  .....

Other Bodies/Individuals  .....

**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

# Overview And Scrutiny Co-Ordinating Group - 19th November 2008.

## Half Year Performance Report

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

#### Recommendation

To consider and comment on the performance of the Overview and Scrutiny function during the first two quarters of 2008/09.

To identify areas for improvement and issues to take forward

#### 1. Performance Management Framework

- 1.1 The Group agreed a performance management framework in April 2007. There are two elements within the performance management framework, firstly a self evaluation for members to complete in relation to their views and experiences of Overview and Scrutiny, and secondly a number of general indicators by which the performance of the Overview and Scrutiny function is measured.

#### 2. Summary of Performance

- 2.1 Current performance against the general indicators contained in the performance management framework is outlined in the table attached as Appendix A.
- 2.2 In many areas current performance for 2008/09 is exceeding both performance at Q2 2007/08 and total performance for 2007/08.
- 2.3 Percentage of OSC's recommendations accepted by Cabinet is currently 10% above the number of recommendations accepted by Cabinet at this point last year. Currently, performance is indicating that the end of year target of 80% will be met.
- 2.4 A new recording process has now been developed to enable the percentage of recommendations that are sent to external partners and are then accepted to be recorded. Previously this has been only been recorded in terms of the number of recommendations that have been accepted by external partners. The current performance in this area (44%) is the result of a number of recommendations

being sent to partners, which have not yet been considered. For example, recommendations made by the Stratford Local Area Scrutiny Panel that relate to Stratford on Avon District Council, have yet to be considered by the Council's Cabinet. If these recommendations were excluded from the analysis, the percentage of recommendations sent to external bodies and accepted would be 100%.

- 2.5 Percentage of recommendations implemented is currently low for both recommendations made and accepted in 2007/08 and those made and accepted so far in 2008/09. This is largely attributable to two major factors (a) the timing of the review and (b) the scale of the task to be undertaken. As many recommendations relate to service reconfiguration, implementation of these will not happen overnight. Therefore, the percentage of recommendations made and accepted in 2007/08 and 2008/09, which are then implemented will increase towards the end of the year and will then continue to increase several years afterwards. This is illustrated by the fact that the percentage of recommendations implemented from previous years has increased significantly since the Group last received a performance report. These are outlined below:

Year	% of recommendations implemented as at April 08	% of recommendations implemented as at Oct 08
2005/06	67%	67%
2006/07	37%	60%
2007/08	22%	38%

- 2.6 Performance in relation to engaging citizens and community groups in the work of scrutiny is currently exceeding performance for the whole of 2007/08. In particular, more consultees have responded to particular consultation exercises and more public questions have been received. Involvement of community groups and site visits is also expected to exceed last year's performance. This is an indication that Overview and Scrutiny Committees are becoming more active at involving members of the public and community groups in their work. The increase in public questions also illustrates that members of the public are increasing using Overview and Scrutiny as a mechanism to have their voice heard and to hold the Council and its partners to account.
- 2.7 In terms of the number of attendances at Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings and the number of external witnesses contributing to scrutiny, performance in this area compares favourable with 2007/08 performance. As there are number of reviews and select committees being undertaken within next 6 months which will include a large contribution from external partners and attract the attention of members of the public, it is anticipated that by the end of year performance will match or exceed that of last year.

### 3. Impact of Reviews

3.1 The impact of reviews is perhaps the most important factor, because it is this that really shows the value of Overview and Scrutiny. In general terms this is not amenable to quantitative performance statistics. We have carried out a number of reviews and some of the outcomes / impacts as far as they are known at the present time are set out below:

- a) **Demand for School Meals Review** – the school meals service is now set to reach a break even budget position by end of 2008/09.
- b) **Wasted: Young People and Alcohol Review** – The Safer Schools Project has been rolled out across the County to provide consistent advice and guidance to young people in relation to alcohol and drugs
- c) **Child Poverty Review** – A Warwickshire Child Poverty Strategy has now been produced and is linking into the LAA delivery plan.
- d) **Bullying Review** – The 2008 Every Child Matters Survey illustrates a decrease in the level of bullying experienced compared to 2007
- e) **Childhood Obesity Review**– PCT is working with providers and other stakeholders to deliver health improvement programmes through Children's Centres
- f) **Development of Adult Mental Health Services in Rugby Consultation** - arrangements around the provision of a people carrier, extension of voluntary drivers scheme and use of taxi's been made.
- g) **Independence through outcomes – Home Care** - New training programme and approach to medicines management agreed and consideration being given to roll out to other agencies

### 4. Looking Forward

A key action for the Overview and Scrutiny Team for 2008/09, is to review the effectiveness of the Performance Management Framework, both in relation to the self evaluation framework and the performance indicators that are used to measure the performance of the function. It is anticipated that a report will be presented to the Group at its meeting in January in relation to this.

DAVID CARTER  
Strategic Director for  
Performance and  
Development

Shire Hall  
Warwick

22 October 2008

## Appendix A

Indicator	Objective	2005/06 Performance	2006/07 Performance	2007/08 Performance	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Performance at Oct 08
% of recommendations made by OSC's approved by Cabinet	To ensure that recommendations from OSC's are relevant, researched and evidence based so as to help improve the performance and quality of services	83.5%	95%	73.5% <sup>1</sup>	80%	61%
% of recommendations accepted by external partners	To ensure that recommendations from OSC's accord to the aspirations of partners	N/A	N/A	42 recom's	N/A	44% <sup>2</sup>
% of recommendations made by OSC's that have been successfully implemented	To ensure that the work and the recommendation of OSC's are implemented	67%	60%	38%	N/A	0%
No of citizens and community groups involved in scrutiny in the year	To identify and use a variety of techniques such as publicity, use of consultation processes and actively taking scrutiny out into the community so as to increase public participation	N/A	N/A	11 community groups 540 people responding to consultation exercises 31 site visits 10 public questions	N/A	9 community groups 604 people responding to consultation exercises 21 site visits 16 public questions
No of external witnesses contributing to the O+S process	To ensure that the O+S function is making best use of the knowledge and experience of experts	N/A	N/A	269 people attending committees 109 external witnesses contributing to scrutiny	N/A	136 people attending committees 70 external people contributing to the work of scrutiny

<sup>1</sup> 92.2% of recommendations accepted if those accepted subject to budget considerations are included

<sup>2</sup> Due to a change in recording systems we are now able to record this as a percentage, as opposed to raw numbers