



Scrutiny Programme Board

Date:	Monday, 20 September 2010
Time:	6.15 pm
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

1. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members are asked to consider whether they have personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they are.

Members are reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they are subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 10)

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 3 June and 18 August 2010.

3. MEMBERS' QUESTIONNAIRE ON SCRUTINY (Pages 11 - 32)

4. SCRUTINY WORKSHOP UPDATE (Pages 33 - 34)

5. SCRUTINY TRAINING

Verbal Report

6. FUTURE CHALLENGES FOR SCRUTINY (Pages 35 - 42)

Members are requested to give consideration to the Policy Briefing Note 'Future Challenges for Scrutiny', produced by the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

7. THE FUTURE FOR SCRUTINY (Pages 43 - 44)

Members are requested to give consideration to the briefing note 'The Future for Scrutiny', produced by the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

8. GOOD SCRUTINY AWARDS (Pages 45 - 68)

9. WORK PROGRAMMES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (Pages 69 - 98)

- Council Excellence (Pages 69 – 75)
- Children and Young People (Pages 77 – 81)
- Economy and Regeneration (Pages 83 – 87)
- Health and Well Being (Pages 89 – 93)
- Sustainable Communities (Pages 95 – 98)

10. REVIEW OF SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 99 - 104)

11. FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the period October 2010 – January 2011 has now been published on the Council's intranet/website. Members are invited to review the Plan prior to the meeting in order for the Scrutiny Programme Board to consider, having regard to the Committee's work programme, whether scrutiny should take place of any items contained within the Plan and, if so, how it could be done within relevant timescales and resources.

12. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR

SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD

Thursday, 3 June 2010

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	H Smith (Chair)	
	Councillors	A Bridson G Davies P Gilchrist C Meaden	S Mountney S Taylor G Watt
<u>Deputies:</u>	Councillors	J Keeley (In place of J Hale) A McArdle (In place of M McLaughlin)	

1 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members were asked to consider whether they had personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they were.

Members were reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

No such declarations were made.

2 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 4 March 2010 be approved.

3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management requested the Board to consider the appointment of a Vice-Chair for the ensuing municipal year.

On a motion by Councillor H Smith and seconded by Councillor G Davies, it was –

Resolved – That Councillor Mrs C Meaden be appointed as Vice-Chair for the ensuing Municipal Year.

4 ALLOCATION OF CALL-IN NOTICES

Further to minute 42 (4 March 2010) the Board gave consideration to a briefing note in relation to the allocation of call-in notices, which had previously been circulated by the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management.

The Democratic Services Manager referred also to the call-in of Cabinet minute 406 (15 April 2010) in relation to Hoylake Lifeboat Station and sought the views of the Board as to its determination. In anticipation of the Board allocating the call-in notice to the relevant themed Overview and Scrutiny Committee, he had consulted with the Chair and spokespersons of the Council Excellence O&S Committee, who had provisionally agreed that the call-in would be heard on 14 June 2010.

Resolved – That the call-in notice be referred to the Council Excellence O&S Committee for determination.

5 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PETITION SCHEME IN WIRRAL

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management reported that at its meeting held on 19 April 2010, the Council had approved a Petition Scheme in accordance with the requirement of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. He indicated that the Scheme was attached as an addendum to the Council's Constitution and he had also appended it to his report for completeness. He provided an outline of the role for Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Scrutiny Programme Board under the new Scheme, which had to be in force by 15 June 2010. He also informed Members of the arrangements being made for the Council to receive petitions electronically in advance of the requirement coming into force on 15 December 2010.

In response to comments from Members in relation to the thresholds that had been agreed by the Cabinet/Council, on the numbers of signatures required to request the Council to take action, the Democratic Services Manager indicated that the thresholds had been significantly reduced from those set out in the model scheme in order to take account of the demographics of Wirral. Furthermore, the existing arrangements in relation to Planning and Licensing decisions were unaffected by the new Petition Scheme.

Resolved –

- (1) That the implications of the Petition Scheme to the Overview and Scrutiny function be noted.**
- (2) That the Council be recommended to amend its Constitution to ensure the implementation and smooth running of the Scheme as soon as possible.**

6 ANNUAL SCRUTINY QUESTIONNAIRE

Further to minute 51 (4 March 2010), the Democratic Services Manager provided an update in relation to the Annual Scrutiny Questionnaire. She asked that all Members take the time to complete the questionnaire and indicated that to date, only 17 responses had been received.

Resolved – That the report be noted and Members who have not completed the questionnaire be encouraged to do so.

7 **SCRUTINY TRAINING**

Further to minute 45 (4 March 2010), the Democratic Services Manager reported that a further meeting of the Members Training Steering Group was being arranged at the earliest opportunity, in order to give consideration to the Members Training Programme. Overview and Scrutiny training for both Members and officers and Overview and Scrutiny Chairs training would be specifically considered

Resolved – That the update be noted.

8 **ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2009/2010**

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management provided an update in relation to the production of an Annual Scrutiny Report for the Municipal Year 2009/2010. It was intended to provide an overview of the work carried out and the achievements recorded by the Scrutiny Programme Board and the five Overview and Scrutiny Committees and it gave an opportunity to highlight the positive aspects that scrutiny had brought to the authority during 2009/2010.

The Director presented a copy of the Annual Report 2008/2009 and sought the views of Members as to whether the format and content should be similar to previous versions or whether an alternative approach should be pursued. A draft version of the report would be presented to a future meeting of the Board.

Resolved – That the views of Members and suggestions as to how best to improve the Annual Scrutiny Report be sent direct to the Democratic Services Manager.

9 **THE FUTURE OF SCRUTINY - LGA CONFERENCE REPORT**

The Democratic Services Manager presented a copy of the Local Government Association/Centre for Public Scrutiny (LGA/CfPS) Conference Report: 'The Future of Scrutiny'. The findings in the report were from the joint LGA/CfPS conference which took place on 30 October 2009 and it highlighted the issues that were considered as most important for the future development of scrutiny and to improve its effectiveness. Rated as most important was the need to gain greater support and awareness of the potential of scrutiny from Council Executives, senior managers and partner organisations. Further issues highlighted related to the need for improved practice, increased resources and enhanced powers for scrutiny.

Resolved – That the conference report be noted.

10 **THE 2009 ANNUAL SURVEY OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONDUCTED BY THE CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY**

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management provided an update on the outcomes of the 2009 Annual Scrutiny Survey conducted by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS). The survey had taken place for seven years and invited participation from those involved in the delivery of scrutiny, both at an officer and Member level. The Democratic Services Manager had produced an officer response and, in

addition, the Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees had been invited to complete the survey form.

The Director had appended a copy of the CfPS report and he set out the major findings contained within it. He indicated that having received at least one response from 75% of all local authorities in England and Wales this year's annual survey of overview and scrutiny was the most representative yet. The CfPS commented that "given the tough economic climate in local government the headline resource statistics from the survey are likely to be of particular interest to the reader. The picture is very much a mixed one with good news for districts and unitary authorities – who have seen significant rises in discretionary budgets and officer provision – and a concerning if not unanticipated decline in resourcing for other top tier authority types".

The survey asked respondents for views about the perceptions with regard to scrutiny in their local authority and, whilst most scrutineers firmly believed that the scrutiny function added value in their authority, there was a consensus around the need to build a higher profile with the public. Respondents felt that scrutiny should be free from whipping and receive a ring-fenced budget and there was also agreement that there ought to be a minimum level of training for new scrutiny chairs with the need for more training being a strong theme generally in this year's survey. There had also been a decisive shift towards scrutinising partnerships compared to the previous year.

Having regard to improving engagement with the public, Members referred to difficulties in navigating the Council's new website and expressed concern that they had not been involved in the design process.

The Democratic Services Manager, in the light of the findings from the LGA/CfPS Conference (see minute 9 ante) and the CfPS survey, suggested that perhaps the Board could consider holding a workshop to look at how it could improve and strengthen the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function, reflecting on emerging themes nationally and any work identified locally. This could also provide an opportunity to benchmark the Overview and Scrutiny function against the emerging national themes.

The Democratic Services Manager noted the following issues, activities and questions that the workshop could consider: -

- The involvement of the Communications Team to raise the profile of Overview and Scrutiny.
- Website improvements by the provision of attractive Overview and Scrutiny pages, to encourage the involvement of the public.
- The Annual Report should promote the Overview and Scrutiny function.
- Review and revise the Scrutiny Handbook and Toolkit in the light of current thinking.
- Improve the Forward Plan, to ensure that Members are aware, well in advance, of the nature of executive decisions to be taken so that strategic policy overview and pre-scrutiny can be carried out if deemed appropriate.
- In respect of Community Engagement, Special Interest Groups could be encouraged to feed into Scrutiny Reviews

- Hold site visits and Committee meetings in the local community.
- What support is required from Scrutiny Officers?
- The importance of Overview and Scrutiny training for Members and officers.
- What needs to change to make Overview and Scrutiny more effective?
- What should we improve?

Resolved –

- (1) That the report be noted.**
- (2) That an informal workshop be held comprising members of the Scrutiny Programme Board and representatives from each of the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees, with a view to raising the profile of the scrutiny function in Wirral.**
- (3) That Members be encouraged to consider the ideas put forward by the Democratic Services Manager and discuss them at the workshop meeting.**
- (4) That the workshop be held after the current cycle of overview and scrutiny committees, in order to have regard to their agreed work programmes.**

11 **REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES ON THE FORWARD PLAN**

At the last meeting of the Scrutiny Programme Board (minute 49 (4 March 2010) refers), Members considered the following decision of the Cabinet (minute 298 – 4 February 2010) in relation to the Forward Plan and the Scrutiny Function –

- (1) That officers include within the Forward Plan a more informative narrative of the key decisions to be taken, together with more accurate timescales.**
- (2) That Cabinet notes that Overview and Scrutiny Committees set their own agenda and can call on officers to present additional reports to meet their requirements.**

The Board noted the decision of the Cabinet and requested that Chief Officers ensure that all new items to be included within the Forward Plan include an informative narrative of the key decisions to be taken, together with more accurate timescales for decisions to be taken.

The Democratic Services Manager reported that the Forward Plan for the period June to September 2010 had been published on the Council's intranet/website and Members had been invited to review the Plan prior to the meeting in order for the Scrutiny Programme Board to consider, having regard to the Committee's work programme, whether scrutiny should take place of any items contained within the Plan and, if so, how it could be done within relevant timescales and resources.

Members commented that greater clarity was still required in relation to items contained within the Forward Plan and indicated that it remained difficult to ascertain from the Plan the issues that may be appropriate for pre-scrutiny.

Resolved –

- (1) That the update be noted.**
- (2) That in order for Members to be able to identify issues for pre-scrutiny, Chief Officers be reminded to include within the Forward Plan a more informative narrative of the key decisions to be taken, together with more accurate timescales.**

12 ALCOHOL SCRUTINY REVIEW - PROGRESS REPORT

Further to minute 17 (14 September 2009) and minute 33 (14 January 2010), members of the Alcohol Scrutiny Panel presented an update on progress for the Alcohol Scrutiny Review. The central focus of the review was the “access to alcohol by young people in Wirral” and the issues which would be focused upon were contained within a scoping document appended to the report. Evidence had been gathered from meetings with officers of Wirral NHS, Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), Children and Young People, Licensing, Trading Standards and Merseyside Police. The Panel members proposed to continue with further evidence gathering, in particular focusing on the education of children (regarding alcohol) and the investigation of progress of initiatives at statistical and geographical neighbours. Members of the Panel indicated that young people would also be interviewed during the course of the review and it was proposed that this would be achieved with input from the Youth Parliament and the Youth Outreach Team.

It was planned that the final report for the Alcohol Scrutiny Review would be completed by the current panel members in due course.

Resolved –

- (1) That the Alcohol Scrutiny Review remain as part of the work programme for the new municipal year.**
- (2) That with the continued input and support from Mr A Veitch (Scrutiny Officer aligned to the Liberal Democrat Group), the following Members be re-appointed to serve on the Alcohol Scrutiny Panel in 2010/2011 –**
 - **Councillor Ann Bridson**
 - **Councillor Chris Meaden**
 - **Councillor Sue Taylor**
 - **Councillor Dave Mitchell**

13 ONE COUNCIL SCRUTINY REVIEW - PROGRESS REPORT

Further to minute 44 (4 March 2010), the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management provided an update upon progress of the ‘One Council’ Scrutiny Review. He outlined the objective of the review and appended to his report the scoping document previously approved by the Board. The Director sought the views of the Board as to whether the review should remain as part of the work programme for the new municipal year.

On a Motion by Councillor H Smith and seconded by Councillor Mrs C Meaden, it was –

Resolved – That no further work be undertaken in relation to the ‘One Council’ Scrutiny Review at the present time.

14 **REVIEW OF SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management provided an update on the current status of the Scrutiny Programme Board’s Work Programme for the 2009/2010 municipal year and invited suggestions from Members regarding the work programme for 2010/2011. He outlined the functions of the Scrutiny Programme Board and indicated that the work programmes of the five themed overview and scrutiny committees would be presented to each meeting of the Board for progress to be reviewed.

He set out guidance for the selection of topics for review and commented that an in-depth review should have the potential to make a difference and be carefully chosen with reference to objective criteria. He commented upon sources of ideas for topics for review and referred also to reasons for the rejection of suggested topics.

It was moved by Councillor H Smith and seconded by Councillor Mrs C Meaden –

“That, having regard to savings required by the Government, which are likely to amount to some £8m for Wirral Council in the current year, a Panel be appointed to consider the impact of those savings and how they will affect work being undertaken with local partners”.

Members commented that at the present time, no specific cuts in grant had been announced and that, as and when savings exercises were proposed, each should be referred to the appropriate overview and scrutiny committee for consideration.

It was moved as an Amendment by Councillor Gilchrist and seconded by Councillor Mountney –

“That the impact on partnerships of any savings that may be required in relation to specific grants, form the basis of a scrutiny review as more information is known”.

The Amendment was put and carried. (6:4)

Resolved – That the impact on partnerships of any savings that may be required in relation to specific grants, form the basis of a scrutiny review as more information is known.

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SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD

Wednesday, 18 August 2010

Present:

Councillor H Smith (Chair)

Councillors	C Meaden	G Watt
	J Hale	G Davies
	A Bridson	M McLaughlin
	S Mountney	P Gilchrist

Deputies:

Councillors P Johnson (In place of S Taylor)

15 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP

Members were asked to consider whether they had personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they were.

Members were reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

No such declarations were made.

16 ALLOCATION OF CALL-IN NOTICES

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management sought the views of the Scrutiny Programme Board in relation to the allocation of the following Call-In Notices, both of which had been submitted by the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor S Foulkes and Councillor P Davies –

- (i) Cabinet Minute 68 (22 July 2010)
Area Based Grant
- (ii) Cabinet Minute 84 (22 July 2010)
Parks and Countryside Service Procurement Exercise (PACSPE)

He reported that it was entirely a matter for the Board whether Members chose to consider Call-In Notices themselves, or to refer them to one or more of the themed Overview and Scrutiny Committees. He commented that in anticipation of the Board allocating the call-in notices to the Council Excellence Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Area Based Grant) and the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (PACSPE), consultations had taken place with the relevant Chairs and spokespersons for those meetings to take place. The provisional dates agreed were 26 August 2010 for the Council Excellence O&S Committee and 31 August 2010 for the Sustainable Communities O&S Committee.

He reported that the provisional dates were one and three days respectively, outside the deadline for their consideration of fifteen working days. He outlined the reasons for officers being unable to adhere to the deadline, due in part to the need to convene a meeting of the Board for their formal allocation. However, he confirmed that the Cabinet decisions would not be implemented until the call-in notices had been determined.

Members expressed the view that all call-in notices should be heard within the deadlines set by the Council; however, in those instances where deadlines could not be adhered to, then call-ins should be heard by the Board itself. The respective Chairs of the Council Excellence and Sustainable Communities O&S Committees commented that the experience of the Members of those Committees suggested that they were best placed to deal with call-ins which fell within their remit. Members also expressed the view that the operation of the Scrutiny Programme Board in relation to call-in notices should be reviewed.

It was moved by Councillor H Smith and seconded by Councillor G Davies –

“That, in view of the issue of in-house bids for services referred to within the call-in notice, the call-in in relation to Cabinet minute 84 – Parks and Countryside Service Procurement Exercise (PACSPE) be retained by the Scrutiny Programme Board for determination.”

It was moved as an amendment by Councillor Hale and seconded by Councillor Bridson –

“That the call-in of Cabinet minute 84 – Parks and Countryside Service Procurement Exercise (PACSPE) be referred to the Sustainable Communities O&S for determination.”

The amendment was put and carried (6:4)

Resolved –

- (1) That the call-in of Cabinet minute 68 – Area Based Grant, be referred to the Council Excellence O&S Committee on 26 August 2010, for determination.**
- (2) That the call-in of Cabinet minute 84 – Parks and Countryside Service Procurement Exercise (PACSPE), be referred to the Sustainable Communities O&S for determination. (6:4)**
- (3) That the officers be requested to investigate the possibility of the Sustainable Communities O&S Committee call-in meeting, scheduled for 31 August 2010, being held at an earlier date, if it is possible to do so, having regard to the availability of Committee Members, the signatories to the call-in and key witnesses.**

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD - 20th SEPTEMBER 2010

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LAW, HR AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

MEMBERS' QUESTIONNAIRE ON SCRUTINY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides details of responses to the members' questionnaire on scrutiny (2009/10) that has been recently circulated. The report also provides an update to the recommendations which were agreed by the Scrutiny Programme Board following the analysis of the 2008/9 version of the questionnaire.

1. Background

- 1.1 It was agreed by the Scrutiny Chairs' Group in November 2008 that a questionnaire should be sent to all Council members to give them an opportunity to express their views on scrutiny arrangements.
- 1.2 The questionnaire was sent to members in April 2009 and the responses were analysed. The Scrutiny Programme Board reviewed the results of the questionnaire at the meetings held on 27th May 2009 and 7th September 2009. A number of recommendations were agreed at the meeting on 7th September 2009. An update on the implementation of those recommendations is provided in Section 2 of this report.
- 1.3 The Scrutiny Programme Board (7th September 2009) agreed that the format of the Members' scrutiny questionnaire should be reviewed and that a questionnaire should be issued on an annual basis. As steps are taken to improve the scrutiny function, it is important that the views of members are taken into account. Again, it was agreed that the survey should be undertaken at the end of the municipal year. The results of 2009/10 survey, undertaken during April and May of 2010, are analysed in Section 3 of this report.

2. Outcome of the recommendations following the 2008/9 questionnaire

The meeting of the Scrutiny Programme Board held on 7th September 2009 agreed a number of recommendations aimed at improving scrutiny processes. Each of those recommendations is reviewed below:

- 2.1 Recommendation: Each of the five Scrutiny Committees undertake at least one detailed review of a relevant topic and produce a report with recommendations for improvements.

2.1.1 Reasons for the recommendation

In the 2008/9 survey, the most frequent response to the question of 'How could we make our Scrutiny Committees more effective?' related to there being more working groups undertaking 'positive' scrutiny on a specific issue. Furthermore, when asked in the Questionnaire, 'Does Scrutiny have a positive impact on the services provided by

the Council?', approximately half of the recipients reported positive impact of scrutiny, with the reviews undertaken by Children's Services Scrutiny Committee (Fostering and Youth Outreach Reviews) and by Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee (Hospital Discharge Review) being cited as examples by most of these members.

The standard practice in many Councils is for small groups of councillors to undertake a detailed review into a specific topic of particular interest to the members. The process is member-led involving more informal meetings and visits in order to gather 'evidence' on the topic. The outcome of the review is a report which includes recommendations for improvements that is reported to the relevant Scrutiny Committee and then, if agreed, to Cabinet.

By September 2009, only a small number of such reviews had taken place in Wirral. These include 'The Support given to schools pre- and post-Ofsted Inspections', 'The Fostering Service', 'Youth Outreach' and 'Hospital Discharge: The Patient Experience of the Older People in Wirral'. In all of these cases, a substantial number of the recommendations have been / are being implemented. Therefore, scrutiny can influence service provision. The influence of scrutiny members was more likely to be increased by their participation in detailed Scrutiny reviews.

2.1.2 Progress since September 2009

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee has undertaken 'in-depth' reviews for a number of years and has developed investigative scrutiny as a way of working. This practice continued in 2009/10 with the completion of the 'Literacy Levels at Key Stage 2' review. The 'evidence gathering' was carried out by an all-party working group (Cllrs Sheila Clarke, Frank Doyle and Tony Smith), which resulted in a report being agreed by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 21st January 2010. Subsequently, the report was included on the Cabinet agenda of 24th June 2010. Cabinet resolved that:

- (1) Cabinet thanks the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for an excellent piece of work;
- (2) Cabinet supports the contents and recommendations of the Literacy Levels Scrutiny Review and requests that a further report be brought to Cabinet on the implementation of the Review's recommendations.

Subsequently, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee established a working group to undertake a review of "Narrowing the gap – Impact of deprivation funding". This review has yet to be completed.

During 2009/10, the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee established a working group comprising Cllrs Ann Bridson, Denise Roberts, Sheila Clarke and Chris Teggins to review 'The care of patients with dementia in acute hospital'. The members have worked with experts, voluntary groups and carers to identify issues from the perspective of the patient with dementia and their carer(s) and also from the viewpoint of other patients sharing a ward with a dementia patient. The 'evidence gathering' is almost complete and a report is due to be produced before the end of 2010.

An all-party panel of four members (Cllrs Dave Mitchell, Sue Taylor, Chris Meaden and Ann Bridson) was established by the Scrutiny Programme Board to review the over-arching issue of the Council's approach to tackling the problem of increased drinking by young people. The review is focusing on the access to alcohol by young people. Members are discussing the problem with Council officers, NHS staff and the

police as well as talking to young people on the streets and in parks in the company of trained outreach workers. How and why are young teenagers getting hold of three-litre bottles of cider that cost less than £3 per bottle? A report will be produced by the members in the autumn.

The remaining three Overview and Scrutiny Committees – Council Excellence, Economy and Regeneration and Sustainable Communities - did not undertake any 'in-depth reviews in the 2009 /10 municipal year. Subsequently, during the new municipal year, none of the six Committees have started any new 'in-depth' reviews.

2.2 Recommendation: Encourage Scrutiny Committees to facilitate greater involvement of residents and community organisations during reviews on specific topics.

2.2.1 Reasons for the recommendation

In the national context, there are many examples of scrutiny being used to engage with communities rather than being an internal Council process. In Wirral, the Hospital Discharge Scrutiny Review assessed the 'patient experience' of older people. A major part of the 'evidence' was formed by focus groups of people who had recently been through the discharge process. This provided first-hand examples from residents, which presented powerful evidence that was used to increase the influence of the report. However, it was agreed that, in general, Wirral's Scrutiny processes would be improved by greater involvement of residents and community organisations during reviews on specific topics.

2.2.2 Progress since September 2009

The working groups undertaking 'in-depth' reviews have involved the general public during their 'evidence gathering'. Examples include:

- Visits to schools, including discussions with head teachers, teachers, governors and pupils during both the Literacy Level and Deprivation Funding reviews.
- Meetings with representatives of Alzheimer's Society and Age Concern (including a visit to the Devonshire Centre) as part of the Dementia Review.
- Two Focus groups with carers of people with dementia as part of the Dementia Review.
- Visits on to the streets and into parks in the company of outreach workers to meet young drinkers during the Alcohol Review.

In addition, the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee has established a healthy working relationship with Wirral LINK. Other committees have involved community representatives or partner organisations in debates on specific issues.

2.3 Recommendation: Support the production of a short 'aide memoire' document to highlight examples of good scrutiny practice.

2.3.1 Reasons for the recommendation

The 'Scrutiny Toolkit' was produced and issued to all members in 2008. However, this is a lengthy document. It was agreed that a shorter 'aide memoire' document should be produced to highlight examples of good scrutiny practice.

2.3.2 Progress since September 2009

The Scrutiny Programme Board supported the introduction of the scrutiny leaflet, 'Scrutiny – A Guide for Wirral residents'. In addition, the 'Scrutiny Toolkit' is also available in the Library section of the Wirral Council Intranet and website. However, consideration needs to be given to any further guidance that members may require.

2.4 Recommendation: Request that training opportunities are identified for scrutiny members and chairs. In addition, further work should be done to identify examples of good scrutiny practice from other Councils and reports are prepared for future meetings.

2.4.1 Reasons for the recommendation

When asked in the 2008/9 Questionnaire, 'As a Scrutiny member, how could you become more effective?', a number of members requested further training on scrutiny processes. In addition, the Audit Commission Annual Letter of March 2009 highlighted the following: "New members and chairs of scrutiny have not yet received training for their new roles. Members felt that they required more support in their roles, such as performance management and that training should be ongoing".

It was, therefore, agreed that training opportunities should be identified for scrutiny members and chairs. In addition, further work should be done to identify examples of good scrutiny practice from other Councils, which will form the basis of further reports to the Scrutiny Programme Board in the future.

2.4.2 Progress since September 2009

The Scrutiny Programme Board has debated the types of training that might be beneficial to members of scrutiny committees. Scrutiny training has also been discussed by the Members Training Steering Group. It is expected that a members' training event will be held in the near future.

In addition, a number of items on Scrutiny Programme Board agendas have sought to illustrate best practice in scrutiny. As an example, the report on 'Successful Scrutiny 2009', included on the Scrutiny Programme Board agenda of 14th January 2010, highlighted examples where scrutiny was deemed to be working well. The examples were all winners in the Good Scrutiny Awards, organised by the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

2.5 Recommendation: Agree that the Forward Plan should be included as a standard item on the agenda of future Scrutiny Programme Board meetings.

2.5.1 Reasons for the recommendation

The 2008/9 questionnaire highlighted some concerns that too much scrutiny is reactive rather than proactive. In order to give members the opportunity to request further pre-decision scrutiny of specific issues, it was agreed that the Forward Plan should be included as a standard item on the agenda of future Scrutiny Programme Board meetings. It was not anticipated that the details of the Forward Plan would be

distributed with the meeting agenda as details are available on the website. However, members of the Scrutiny Programme Board would then have the opportunity to raise items for further scrutiny by either the Board or by any of the other five Scrutiny Committees (as appropriate).

2.5.2 Progress since September 2009

The Forward Plan has been included on the agenda of all Scrutiny Programme Board meetings since September 2009. However, to date, no items have been selected for further scrutiny.

In addition, the format of the Forward Plan has been debated in more detail by the Scrutiny Programme Board. At the meeting on 4th March 2010, the Board agreed: "That Chief Officers ensure that all new items to be included within the Forward Plan include an informative narrative of the key decisions to be taken, together with more accurate timescales for decisions to be taken".

2.6 Recommendation: Request that examples of good practice on members' scrutiny questionnaires are identified from elsewhere and that the Questionnaire be amended if necessary before the end of the current municipal year.

2.6.1 Reasons for the recommendation

When the 2008/9 questionnaire was introduced, it was intended that it would be distributed on an annual basis. It was agreed that further work would be done to identify examples of good practice from elsewhere and the Questionnaire be amended if necessary.

2.6.2 Progress since September 2009

The Scrutiny Programme Board agreed the amended format of the 2009/10 questionnaire during the meeting held on 4th March 2010. Prior to use, the format of the questionnaire was also agreed by the Council's public relations team.

3. **Responses to the 2009/10 Questionnaire (undertaken April / May 2010)**

3.1 Participation in the questionnaire (Question 1 and 1a)

For this year's questionnaire, it was agreed that forms would be sent to the co-opted members of Scrutiny Committees and to the Directors who service those committees, as well as to all 66 members of the Council.

Of the 66 members of the Council, **20 responses** were received.

Of the participants:

16 were on a Scrutiny committee during 2009/10 municipal year.

4 were NOT on a Scrutiny committee during 2009/10 municipal year, of which 2 were Cabinet members.

Responses were received from one co-opted member of a Scrutiny Committee and three Directors.

Therefore, in total, **24 responses** were received.

The response rate is not high. Members may, therefore, wish to review the purpose and format of the questionnaire before any survey is undertaken for 2010/11.

3.2 Overview of responses

A significant number of respondents appear to be unenthusiastic about current scrutiny arrangements. This is a common theme that is developed through a number of the questions. Allied to the relatively low number of responses, there is clearly a challenge to make scrutiny work more effectively for members. There is a view among respondents that scrutiny has little voice in the authority. However, the positive messages that are apparent in some responses generally relate to the achievements of the working groups undertaking 'in-depth' reviews on specific topics. The Scrutiny Programme Board may want to reflect on why a majority of participants are dissatisfied with Scrutiny arrangements.

3.3 Detailed responses

The responses from all participants have been combined onto a single document (see Appendix 1). All responses have been made anonymous.

A summary of the major messages arising from the responses is given in Section 4 below.

4. **Summary of the Comments and matters for consideration by members**

4.1 Scrutiny Training (Question 1b)

There was a very mixed response regarding the question 'When did you last receive training on the Overview and Scrutiny function?'. The issue of scrutiny training for members had already been identified and is being pursued through the Members' Training Steering Group.

4.2 Satisfaction with Scrutiny Support (Question 3)

There was an inconclusive response to the question 'Are you happy with the Scrutiny Support available to the Board and committees or would you like to see some improvements?' Some respondents referred directly to the work being done by the Scrutiny Support Officers; others responded with far more general points. Only six respondents agreed that they were happy with the current arrangements, although few raised alternative suggestions. Some members did comment that there are too many meetings, while the point was also made that further effort should be made to ensure that scrutiny is a member-led process which includes members leading the way on agenda-setting and planning the work programme.

Despite the current difficult financial climate for local authorities, the case was also made for a small budget to enable scrutiny committees to independently arrange any research or visits which may assist their work.

4.3 Satisfaction with the Scrutiny Programme Board (Questions 4 and 5)

The responses revealed a significant lack of understanding among members regarding the role of the Scrutiny Programme Board. The majority of members answered 'NO' when asked whether they 'knew enough about the role of the Scrutiny Programme Board and its work programme'. In addition, when asked 'How successful has the Scrutiny Programme Board been in leading the development of Overview and Scrutiny' the majority answered 'Unsuccessful' (12), while only five respondents thought that it had been 'Successful'. There is clearly work to be done to ensure that all members are aware of the role and the potential benefits of the Scrutiny Programme Board.

4.4 Effectiveness of scrutiny at holding the Executive to account (Questions 6 to 6c)

The responses showed an equal number of those who are 'Satisfied' (11) and 'Dissatisfied' (11) regarding the ability of scrutiny in holding the executive to account. However, twice as many members think that the Call-In process has been 'Unsuccessful' (14) at holding the Executive to account than think it is 'Successful' (7). There is perhaps a case for the Scrutiny Programme Board to review the 'Call-in' guidelines and the process for allocating Call-In notices to specific committees. Recommendations for any proposed improvements could then be passed to Cabinet.

When asked 'Does the Forward Plan assist Overview and Scrutiny Committees in holding the Executive to account, many respondents answered 'Don't Know' (10). A further 7 answered 'No', while 7 thought that the Forward Plan had been of assistance. The evidence suggests that the Forward Plan is not yet being used actively to enable Scrutiny Committees to plan their work programmes and meeting agendas. Although, during the 2009/10 municipal year, the Scrutiny Programme Board has discussed the use of the Forward Plan in scrutiny, the responses to the questionnaire would suggest that further work is required.

With regard to holding the Executive to account, it is worth noting the practice in some councils of Cabinet members, on occasions, attending the relevant Scrutiny Committee to take part in a 'question and answer' session on matters relevant to their portfolio. This approach may help those members who feel that their views are ignored by Cabinet. A constructive dialogue between scrutiny and Cabinet could enhance the role of scrutiny.

4.5 The influence of scrutiny with respect to the delivery of local services (Questions 7 and 8)

With regard to the ability of scrutiny to influence the delivery of policies and services, a small majority of respondents were 'satisfied' (12) compared to those who were 'dissatisfied' (9). However, a clear majority of respondents did not record any examples of work carried out by Overview and Scrutiny Committees which had

contributed to improved Council services. Of the eight respondents who gave examples, all referred to the 'in-depth' reviews undertaken by working groups.

4.6 Strengths of the current Overview and Scrutiny process (Question 9)

It was noticeable that a significant number of respondents failed to record any strengths of the current Overview and Scrutiny process. There appears to be a general scepticism about the system working well. However, of those who did respond, the most frequent responses related to the 'in-depth' reviews undertaken by working groups.

4.7 Potential improvements to the current Overview and Scrutiny process (Question 10)

The respondents' suggestions for potential improvements to the current Overview and Scrutiny process included the following areas:

- Implementation of a monitoring process to ensure that the recommendations agreed by scrutiny committees have been implemented. If they have not been implemented, have reasons been given?
- Funding of scrutiny - is there scope for a Scrutiny budget?
- Greater involvement of the public, residents and service users in the Council's scrutiny processes.
- What can be done to speed up the 'in-depth' review process?
- Training of members and support staff, focusing particularly towards the actual situation in Wirral
- Reduce the number of reports on agendas that are for 'noting'
- The work plan would benefit if fewer items were explored in greater depth.
- Consider the role of co-opted members on scrutiny committees - some do not have full voting rights
- Create a centralised team of Scrutiny Support Officers, not aligned to the three Political Group offices
- Change the culture and attitudes towards scrutiny, including the need for:
 - Members to take a more active role in scrutiny
 - Cabinet to treat scrutiny more importantly
 - Members to be convinced of the positive benefits that can be attained from good scrutiny

5. **Conclusion**

A number of issues have been raised by the respondents to the questionnaire. In general, the Scrutiny Programme Board may want to reflect on why a majority of participants in the questionnaire process are dissatisfied with Scrutiny arrangements. The Scrutiny Workshop on 1st September gives members further opportunity to discuss related issues. Taking regard of the responses to the questionnaire, members of the Scrutiny Programme Board could prioritise the following areas for further work:

- Improve the engagement of members with the scrutiny process
- Review the purpose and format of the members' annual scrutiny questionnaire
- The current plans for scrutiny training

- The role and potential benefits of the Scrutiny Programme Board
- Review of the 'Call-In' process, including the current guidelines
- Review the use of the Forward Plan in the scrutiny process
- Encouraging more members to participate in working groups undertaking 'in-depth' reviews
- Consider the potential improvements listed in paragraph 4.7 above

6 Financial implications

None

7 Staffing implications

None

8 Equal Opportunities implications

None

9 Community Safety implications

None

10 Local Agenda 21 implications

None

11 Planning implications

None

12 Anti-poverty implications

None

13 Human Rights implications

None

14 Social Inclusion implications

None

15 Local Member Support implications

None

16 Background Papers

None

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Scrutiny Programme Board considers the potential improvements listed in paragraph 5 of the report for further action.

WIRRAL SCRUTINY MEMBERS ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRE – APRIL / MAY 2010

The responses to each question are analysed below. The responses from all participants have been combined onto this single document. All responses have been made anonymous.

General Comments on responses

Of the 66 members of the Council, **20 responses** were received.

Of the participants:

16 were on a Scrutiny committee during 2009/10 municipal year

4 were NOT on a Scrutiny committee during 2009/10 municipal year, of which

2 were Cabinet members

Of the participants:

6 were members of the Conservative group

4 were members of the Labour group

8 were members of the Liberal Democrat group

2 were unknown

In addition, the survey form was distributed to all co-opted members of Scrutiny Committees and to all Directors. Responses were received from one Co-opted member of a Scrutiny Committee and three Directors.

Therefore, in total, **24 responses** were received.

The answers to each question are detailed below:

1 Please tick which of the following Overview and Scrutiny Forums you sit on:

Scrutiny Programme Board	<input type="text" value="4"/>
Children and Young People	<input type="text" value="5"/>
Council Excellence	<input type="text" value="7"/>
Economy and Regeneration	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Health and Well Being	<input type="text" value="4"/>
Sustainable Communities	<input type="text" value="4"/>
None of the above	<input type="text" value="3"/>

1a Please tick which of the role descriptions below applies to you.

Elected Member Co-opted Member Cabinet Member Director

1b When did you last receive training on the Overview and Scrutiny function?

Cannot recall
.....
Some years ago when it was first introduced
.....
Never
.....
I attended training on general financial matters. I would hope that 'teach-ins' could be organised by officers for all members in view of the serious budgetary issues.
.....
While not strictly O&S training but relevant: - 04/12/09 Personalisation Conference, Wirral - 23/02/09 How to produce effective recommendations in scrutiny reports (Health Scrutiny Support programme provided by the Centre for Public Scrutiny) 15/06/10 Training on safeguarding adults.
.....
None
.....
About a year ago
.....
January
.....
Social services – about 2 years ago
.....
3 years ago
.....
Finance training Sept '09
.....
Last year 2009
.....
Last year – Audit & risk Management
.....
No response
.....
Can't remember – Too many training events are called
.....
2009
.....
Cannot recall, if or when
.....
No response
.....
3 years ago
.....
2005?
.....
None
.....
Prior to moving to Wirral
.....
Cannot recall

.....
Never

2 What do you believe to be the main purpose of Overview and Scrutiny?

Examines decisions of the Council (Cabinet)
Make recommendations to Cabinet
Call-In decisions of Cabinet when appropriate

.....
Monitoring Executive decisions of Cabinet
Advising where alternative or enhanced decisions might be considered by Cabinet – or ultimately, calling in decisions for reconsideration where there are genuine grounds to believe that decisions are flawed.

.....
To evaluate proposals that appertain to that committee.
Review Cabinet decisions
Make decisions on agenda items

.....
To hold the cabinet to account
To discuss issues with cabinet members before they embark on courses of action

.....
A better understanding of local services delivered to local residents, including good or poor levels of service, leading to appropriate recommendations to raise and maintain high standards.

.....
Deeper investigation into issues

.....
The scrutiny of the way in which Council decisions are put into effect by the Cabinet, and an overview of the administration of the Council

.....
Make sure the Cabinet and Council work for the benefit of all communities

.....
Overview of Council policy developing options
Scrutiny of decisions made by Cabinet

.....
To investigate and constructively comment on officers' and Cabinet decisions inside and outside the Council, particularly of the health service.

.....
To monitor provision of service; challenge arrangements and report on possible improvements, ie, review and development of policy

.....
To oversee decisions made by Cabinet are correct

.....
To question decisions made by Cabinet

.....
No response

.....
It should examine the services that we provide, where we can make improvements or where we are going wrong.
.....

It should examine the services that we provide, where we can make improvements or where we are going wrong.

.....
To make improvements on services we provide if required

.....
To ask questions and send reports to the Cabinet of things that would be of interest to the general public

.....
To hold Cabinet decisions to scrutiny

To investigate items of public interest

To 'Call-In' and review Cabinet decisions we are not happy with

To investigate areas of function of the Council plus partners and make recommendations

.....
Check outcomes

Examine policy of Executive

Suggest policy to Executive

.....
To receive reports from officers and other invited parties.

To ask questions concerning items within those reports.

Hopefully to make recommendations to Cabinet on certain issues

.....
To scrutinise decisions and hold executive to account

To explore critical policy issues in department

To link health and local authority actions

.....
Scrutinise decisions and contribute to executive Management of the Authority through use of impartial, expert testimony.

.....
To add value through in-depth reviews; constructive challenge and performance monitoring

3 Are you happy with the Scrutiny Support available to the Board and Committees or would you like to see some improvements? Please suggest any improvements.

Satisfied

.....
I would like to see improvements as it is perceived that many scrutiny committees are 'toothless tigers' in that genuine and constructive recommendations are not acted upon – or taken any real notice of. In other words, some deem scrutiny to be going through the motions without subsequent benefit to the people of Wirral.

.....
Don't know what's available

.....
It depends on the willingness of officers to supply information; the same officers providing or refining options in the first instance.

As the budgets will be constrained there will be no funding for independent sources of information.

.....
Not entirely happy. More training to ALL members. Also an allocation of funding specifically for Scrutiny Committees to spend on reviews, research, etc..

Yes

.....
We have had some excellent support from officers and co-operation from senior officers. We do not yet have a shared understanding of what we are trying to do. Training should focus more on achieving this shared understanding.

.....
Needs to be funded to allow more work to take place in and outside of Council

.....
Suggest that all appointed officers take more part in scrutiny support

.....
Needs to be greatly expanded

.....
Progress has been made but improvements still possible through greater positive involvement from members.

.....
Officers are sometimes pushed but in general quite good

.....
Yes

.....
No response

.....
No, sometimes useful. But FAR TOO MANY meetings clashing with numerous councillor commitments.

.....
No. On occasions they can be useful – mostly I find them a waste of time. They relegate most members powerless.

.....
Happy with support, but too many meetings are called at last minute

.....
Yes

.....
Would like clearer statement of what support is available and how we access it

.....
More support

.....
As a diocesan representative it would always be helpful to have ALL papers with Committee members at least 24 hours before the start of meetings.

.....
Yes in general. Still some way to go in Members setting the entire agenda.

.....
Cannot comment

.....
No. Embedding the Support Officers in the Group offices risks politicising Scrutiny and a divisive approach.

4 Scrutiny Programme Board

Scrutiny Programme Board Members are requested to answer 4a only and non-Scrutiny Programme Board Members are requested to answer 4b and 4c.

4a As a Member of the Scrutiny Programme Board, what role do you think the Board has in leading the development of Overview and Scrutiny and ways of working?

Overarching issues can be addressed both in individual scrutiny committees and findings drawn together by the Programme Board, leading to final recommendations, for example, as currently with the review of alcohol and young people.

.....

It has the ability to push work programmes

.....

Needs to improve scrutiny coordination so scrutiny can be focussed.

.....

Must admit I found this quite a strange committee. Two goods things came out of it last year: 1) Call-In notices 2) Alcohol review

.....

Oversight and co-ordination
Offer suggestions to other areas
Overarching view of how other Scrutiny Committees fit together
To monitor activities of other Scrutiny Committees

.....

4b As a non-member of the Scrutiny Programme Board, do you consider that you know enough about its role and its work programme?

Yes No Don't know

4c If you consider that you do not know enough about the Scrutiny Programme Board's role and its work programme, what other information do you feel would be beneficial to non-members?

Their specific role needs to be clarified. It appears that they may only provide another layer of ineffectual bureaucracy in scrutinising other scrutineers without much subsequent benefit.

.....

A short course would help

.....

It is more a question of the shared understanding mentioned above. We really need to sort out the roles of Cabinet, statutory committees, Scrutiny and Council.

.....

I am assuming that the information is available on the intranet. It is my own fault for not looking up this information.

.....

What is its role?

.....

Training at times when I am available and not held for a day; It is far too long to sit and listen.

.....

Why does it exist?

More definite briefings about Overview and Scrutiny Committee procedures

5 How successful has the Scrutiny Programme Board been in leading the development of Overview and Scrutiny and ways of working in its first year in existence?

Unsuccessful Successful Very successful Don't know

6 One of the main roles of the Overview and Scrutiny function is to hold the Executive to account. Overall how satisfied are you that Scrutiny has been able to hold the Executive to account over the past year?

Dissatisfied Satisfied Very satisfied Don't know

6a How effective do you feel the 'Call In' process has been in holding the Executive to account for its decisions?

Unsuccessful Successful Very successful Don't know

6b Does the Forward Plan assist Overview and Scrutiny Committees to hold the Executive to account?

Yes No Don't know

6c If you are not satisfied with the way in which Overview and Scrutiny has held the Executive to account, please state what more you consider Scrutiny should be doing.

Cabinet (and officers) should respond formally and specifically to any and all 'genuine' attempts to question, enhance or challenge decisions made. But some strong mechanism must be found to eliminate, or at least minimise, pure political posturing and mischief making, which does not well serve the people of Wirral.

It depends on the willingness of cabinet members to be open and accountable. Scrutiny can huff and puff but if Members are not keen to grill their own people, the opposition in a balanced Council might be compliant, but would get more involved as issues emerge

The approach is still too party political. We must be realistic in the time which members can devote to their work.

Not enough work done by the select Committees

Call-In used for political reasons with no possible constructive outcome

Scrutiny Committees are powerless. We need to get back to the Committee System, with direct input from all 66 councillors.

Overview & Scrutiny discuss the Call-In, send it back to Cabinet who usually confirm their original decision.

Taking more ownership
Being constructive rather than just pulling apart
Not being afraid to rock the boat
Three parties working together and not playing party political games
Requires a culture shift

Examine more Executive decisions and outcomes

Having only attended 2 O&S meetings I am unable to comment

Note sure forward plan used actively – and it could be!

More proactive and a more impartial issue-based contribution

The reasons for calling-in decisions should be more fully set out in the Call-In Notice.

7 Another central purpose of Overview and Scrutiny is to influence the Executive to make tangible improvements to the policies and services provided by the Council and local Health Services that will ultimately benefit the people of Wirral. Overall, how satisfied are you that Overview and Scrutiny has influenced the Council and local Health Services to the benefit of the people and communities of Wirral?

Dissatisfied 9 Satisfied 12 Very satisfied 1 Don't know 2

8 Are you able to provide any examples where the work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees has contributed to improved Council service?

No

Not off hand.....

No response

Work on hospital discharges and youth service has been valuable

In Health, improved discharge services
Recommendations from Children & Young People work now being implemented

No

No response

No response

Only as far as Children Services and Adult Social Services

No response

.....
The Health & Wellbeing working party on hospital discharge.
Similar working parties in Children's Services.
Council Excellence monitoring of spend.

.....
No response

.....
No response

.....
No response

.....
Quite a few cases

.....
Oaklands and Children in Care; Children's literacy – In four years that is all we have to show. I do not believe that other O&S committees have much to show.

.....
No response

.....
On Council excellence last year we were able to help achieve the Level 2 for Equality and Diversity which I feel is working well

.....
No response

.....
Hospital discharges

.....
No

.....
Hospital discharge work – linked to the broad whole system approach taken to Health and Social Care. However, agenda needs to be broader to all Council services, for example, Valuing People Now – People in Wirral with a learning disability not simply a DASS / Health issue.

.....
No response

.....
No response

9 What do you consider to be the strengths of the current Overview and Scrutiny process?

The process is achieving its objectives as far as I can see

.....
The actual procedure for discussing matters at scrutiny committees is fine – if only the executive and officers would note and be seen to take note of sensible recommendations.

.....
No response

.....
Insufficient experience to judge properly
I was brought up in the days of powerful and challenging committees and the grit isn't there in the new system.

- Working groups successful in working on a non-political basis in best interests of residents
- Opportunities to consider issues raised by residents
- Support staff if used correctly

No response

The varying approaches by different committees mean that we have tried most of them. There should be more cross-fertilisation rather than being lectured to about what others do.

The work done by so few

No response

There have been individuals in Children's Services and Adult Social services who have been instrumental in producing reports which have changed Council policy.

Those areas where small groups have conducted in-depth reviews and made clear recommendations for the future

No response

Its independence

No response

In some cases good work has been done. But system does not work well.

Are there any?

Make up of committees

No response

Some committees do detailed and constructive work (for example, fostering – young peoples)

In some cases the public have become engaged in issues. Members are taking more control from officers

None

Regarding Children's and Young Peoples O&S Committee, the support and superb information given by the Director and his senior staff

In general consented membership with members who understand agenda and demonstrate real interest

No response

No response

10 Are there any aspects of the current Overview and Scrutiny process that you consider require improvement?

No

.....
A formal and constructive procedure needs putting in place that gives a clear sequence of actions that confirm and demonstrate that the advice of scrutiny committees is being fully taken into account and ACTED upon when appropriate. Mere 'political point-scoring' should ultimately have the sanction of reporting to Standards as 'time wasting' at a time when we all need to pull together to find solutions to current problems.
.....

No response

.....
It all depends on the spirit and willingness to co-operate of a limited number of members
.....

- Funding to allow greater flexibility in training and research
 - Opportunity to work with public, residents and service users regarding Council & Health services
 - Speeding up review process
 - Greater enthusiasm from some members
 - All support staff should take opportunities for training and be of high standard
-

Too much information just for 'noting'

.....
We need to focus training / development on the actual situation in Wirral
.....

No response

.....
No response
.....

Training which is accessible to all councillors, which members should attend.
Change in culture so that all members are committed to scrutiny.
.....

We still need to encourage more members to take an active role in scrutiny by setting clear agendas and work programmes and investigating themselves instead of passive receipt of reports
.....

No response

.....
No response
.....

All aspects.
Scrutiny in Wirral only works if all parties are prepared to participate.
As can be continually demonstrated the controlling parties' scrutiny members simply rubber stamp their masters' decisions.
.....

A new system. Overview & Scrutiny is not a good system. We need to go back to the previous procedures.
.....

Impossible. You will probably glean the opinion that I am not a fan of O&S. I believe that the council reached better decisions and every councillor was involved in decisions in programme committees.

.....
No response

.....
No response

.....
Members need more confidence
Public need to be more engaged
Cabinet need to treat it as more important
Members need to be convinced of the positive benefits that can be attained from good scrutiny
It needs to be made more difficult for members to play out party political games through scrutiny

.....
Abolition

.....
Regarding Children's and Young Peoples O&S Committee, for political groups to consider the roles of diocesan and other representatives
As requested at the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting on 2nd June, a need for a voluntary group's representative to have equal representation rights as diocesan representatives.
The most important education and Children's decisions are made in Cabinet, without diocesan representative's involvement at meeting – Very frustrating!!

.....
Work plan would benefit if fewer items were explored in greater depth.
As suggested earlier there is a need, in my opinion, for a broader approach to be taken to a range of our work areas. The 'Transforming Adults' agenda requires a whole system approach that moves away from traditional "welfare" solutions into whole system inclusive activities. Some broader exploration of that would be helpful.

.....
No response

.....
The Scrutiny Support Officers should work in a team and not be allocated to the three Group offices.

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Update Note – Overview & Scrutiny Workshop

9th September 2010

Aim – The aim of the Workshop was to develop an Action Plan for strengthening and improving the Overview & Scrutiny function in Wirral Council.

Background – This workshop was prompted by two pieces of research that each commented on the future of Overview & Scrutiny.

The first emerged from the LGA Conference in 2009 where four key issues came to light -:

1. The need to develop greater awareness regarding the potential role of Scrutiny
2. The need to improve practice in Scrutiny
3. The need to increase resources for Scrutiny
4. The need to enhance Scrutiny powers

The second resulted from the 2009 Annual Centre for Public Scrutiny Survey. The results suggested that Local Authorities need to improve in the following areas-:

1. Creating a positive attitude to scrutiny
2. Developing the effective chairing of Committees
3. Providing dedicated officer support
4. Providing a dedicated budget for Scrutiny activities
5. Offering robust training and development on Overview & Scrutiny
6. Engaging with the local community

Workshop Approach

The Workshop provided an opportunity for the above points (and more) to be considered and discussed. It was an informal event facilitated by an experienced Officer (Melissa Holt, Organisational Development Manager, Wirral Council). The group was guided through topic areas in a clear and organised way with opportunities for all to contribute.

Outcomes – What was achieved at the end of the Session

- A shared understanding of the role of Overview & Scrutiny
- A view of current Overview & Scrutiny practice – the areas of Overview and Scrutiny we do well at Wirral and the areas we could develop
- A suggested “Vision” of what an excellent Overview & Scrutiny function would look and feel like.
- A list of the perceived barriers in place to having a “perfect” Overview & Scrutiny function.

Next Steps

- A second workshop will be held to continue discussions around Wirral's Overview & Scrutiny function and possible options to strengthen our approach.
- It was suggested that a commitment be given by attendees of the first workshop to participate in a second event to ensure consistency.

Future challenges for scrutiny



Policy Briefing 1

July 2010

This briefing is intended to provide information (correct at the beginning of August 2010) relating to developing Government policy around local accountability. It also provides advice as to the steps which practitioners might be able to take to influence the development of policy locally around accountability and transparency.

It can be circulated to Members as a briefing note or used as the basis for the discussion of these issues at committee.

These developments apply to England only although there may be elements which are applicable in Wales.

Contents

1. What is happening?
2. What does this mean for scrutiny?
3. What specific contribution can scrutiny make to the developing policy agenda?
4. What is CfPS doing to influence this agenda?

1. What is happening?

- 1.1 This summer, the developing policy agenda of the coalition Government is becoming clearer. However, the landscape is moving extremely fast and is subject to change. At this stage, the following things have become clear:
- 1.2 Elected police commissioners – we have produced a separate briefing on the Policing White Paper which is available on the CfPS website.
- 1.3 Under the proposals in the White Paper, police authorities will be abolished. The Government has made a commitment to putting in place elected police commissioners to replace police authorities. Elections will take place in 2012, and candidates can be politically affiliated.
- 1.4 Commissioners will have their work scrutinised by new Crime and Police Panels which will consist of local councillors from the Force area (these will, presumably, be Cabinet members – the process for selecting the

-
- membership is not yet fully clear, and it is quite possible that Panels will have to decide on their composition themselves). At more local level, Community Safety Partnerships (previously known as CDRPs) will continue. The White Paper makes no mention of crime and disorder scrutiny but does say that it is going to tidy up the regulatory framework sitting around CSPs – whether this will involve a change in the legal powers of scrutiny under the Police and Justice Act remains to be seen.
- 1.5 Legislation is expected in the autumn.
 - 1.6 Health White Paper – the WP indicates that Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) will be abolished. In their place, consortia of GPs will directly commission services from various providers (who may be from the public, private or third sectors).
 - 1.7 Local authorities will have enhanced responsibility for public health in the local area, working in partnership with GP consortia and having oversight over the commissioning relationships between GPs and providers. Statutory health and wellbeing boards are being created to exercise this function.
 - 1.8 As part of these proposals, the existing statutory health scrutiny powers are being abolished (ie the powers relating to “substantial variations” in local health services, and the power to make a reference to the Secretary of State). However, a more recent paper published by DH on democratic legitimacy does encourage a certain amount of optimism about the continued role of non-executive councillors and the scrutiny process in carrying out the health scrutiny function.
 - 1.9 LINKs are also changing, to become Local HealthWatch, being directly funded by the local authority.
 - 1.10 While the abolition of statutory powers for scrutiny will be disappointing to practitioners, scrutiny can still play an important role as part of the local authority’s public health responsibilities. Scrutineers can – in partnership with Local HealthWatch – investigate these issues and make recommendations accordingly.
 - 1.11 The Health White Paper is explained in more detail in a separate briefing recently published by CfPS. Many of the measures being proposed are expected to be introduced in April 2012 (subject to legislation).

-
- 1.12 Abolition of CAA – Comprehensive Area Assessment has now been abolished along with the National Indicator Set and a range of other indicators and targets from central Government. This can be seen as one outcome of the “contract” between local and central Government proposed in the LGA’s recent publication, “Freedom to Lead, Trust to Deliver”. This suggested that local government would be in a position to deliver significant efficiency savings, as long as central Government provided it with more freedom – specifically, relating to inspection and ring-fencing of funding.
- 1.13 Central to this is a system of self-regulation for local government – not a replacement for CAA, but a way to assure improvement. Peer review, offered by Local Government Improvement and Development (LGID, formerly IDeA) will be one part of this. Another important element will be the scrutiny function. There is a strong argument to be made that scrutiny can and should play a central role in investigating issues of local concern, focusing on improvement, in order to bolster the ability of the authority and its partners to make services better.
- 1.14 Place-based budgeting / community budgeting – this was formerly known as Total Place (CfPS has produced a separate briefing on this subject and is planning a detailed report for publication in September). This is likely to bring significant changes to the way services are delivered in local areas, with decision-making moving away from individual organisations into partnership structures, and with budgets, staff and assets such as offices being shared.
- 1.15 Financial cutbacks – the context for all of the above changes will be the need to cut around 25% from budgets of public sector organisations. The pressure to make cuts will increase significantly in early October with the Comprehensive Spending Review and may mean that some of the changes identified above may, in fact, happen very quickly, and possibly in different ways. Along with place-based budgeting, the pressure to make financial cutbacks is likely to lead to more external commissioning of services, a pursuit of opportunities arising from shared services and similar opportunities for closer partnership.
- 1.16 Localism and Decentralisation Bill – the Government will, in December, be introducing into Parliament a Bill to make a number of changes to the operation of local government in England. The Bill is expected to reflect closely the Conservatives’ “Control Shift” Green Paper published in 2009. It is likely to contain proposals to introduce a power of general competence for local authorities, changes to local government finance and

provisions to carry out referenda on elected mayors for the 12 largest cities in England. It will also contain provisions permitting authorities to return to the committee system of decision-making. This is likely to become law in late 2011 or early 2012.

2. What does this mean for scrutiny?

- 2.1 The implications for these individual changes for scrutiny have been discussed above, but there are more general implications for the future which may be pertinent.
- 2.2 Increasingly, there will be a requirement that scrutineers think much more flexibly and responsively about the way that they “fit in” to other improvement work being carried out in their area. This is a particular concern at the moment, when fast-moving policy changes will mean that scrutiny has to keep a keen eye on what others in the locality are doing, and identify opportunities to feed in. This has been the thrust of our publication, “Accountability Works” – the idea of a web of accountability, whereby practitioners can liaise with those doing similar work in order to enhance everyone’s capability and expertise, and by so doing to ensure that work carried out is as relevant as possible.
- 2.3 The issues around flexibility are likely to come into sharp focus in the coming months for the following reasons;
- a. Scrutiny may start to see its “formal” powers being removed – for example, the removal of the statutory function around health services.
 - b. Councils may start to consider the benefits of returning to the committee system of decision-making.
- 2.4 Both of these pressures mean that practitioners may need to start thinking less about structures, and more about the culture of scrutiny within the organisations they work with. This may – in some areas – mean a process that focuses much less on formal committees, providing more capacity to respond flexibly and develop ideas almost exclusively through task and finish groups.
- 2.5 Relationships and “value added” will be at a premium, rather than scrutiny’s formal powers. An approach which focuses on securing accountability by consensus and agreement, rather than by reference to legislation, may actually add more value and be more influential because it is likely to be perceived as more “helpful”. However, this may require

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- significant changes in thinking both amongst scrutineers and those that they hold to account and will by no means be a risk free enterprise.
- 2.6 Scrutineers, with their other partners in the local web of accountability, may want to see their role as championing, and assisting, culture change in local public services, and constructively challenging proposals when they are put forward around significant organisational change (some of which will involve, in many authorities, cuts to services).
- 2.7 Politics is another key consideration. Local and national, and “small p” and “big p” politics, will impact on how different authorities – and their partners – respond to the challenges they face. Scrutiny members might need to make a distinction between any political responses they might want to make as a result of their party orientation on the one hand, and, on the other, their responsibilities to challenge objectively any proposals coming forward and make recommendations on the basis of evidence and the reality of the position their authority is in at the time. This will be a particular issue when considering issues such as those outlined in section 3.2, below.
3. The contribution that scrutiny could make
- 3.1 What we set out above is a significant challenge. There are a number of practical contributions that scrutiny can make at the moment that could help. Not all of these will be appropriate in every authority, or in every circumstance, but they provide ideas as to how scrutiny can fit within a clear and obvious niche in local decision-making, based on the above risks and opportunities.
- 3.2 Firstly, it can play a role in taking the heat out of decisions being made around service cuts. Scrutiny can provide an objective and robust forum for debate around cuts or service changes. Inevitably much of this discussion will be political, but by providing a framework (through scrutiny) for this debate to happen, it will be more channeled, directed and constructive than it might be otherwise. Executives can and should be encouraged to see scrutiny as a place to test assumptions they make around service delivery and as a neutral broker between the council, its partners, and local people.
- 3.3 Secondly, there may be a case for altering methodologies for some scrutiny work to more closely fit within the prevailing ethos of public services at the moment – the need to deliver “more for less”. Scrutiny could more rigorously use value for money (VFM) methodologies to

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- evaluate services, or policy development ideas. Scrutiny could also apply cost-benefit analyses to proposals, or to its own recommendations, to test them.¹
- 3.4 Thirdly, with the pressure to make immediate savings, some authorities, and some partners, may be tempted to make decisions which, although they could save money in the short term, might be damaging either to finances or to services (or both) in the future. Scrutiny can continue to scan the policy horizon for the authority and its partners, and to examine the long-term ramifications for decisions being taken now, in order to provide more circumspection to a policy-making process over the next few months which is likely to take place in a febrile atmosphere.
- 3.5 Fourthly, there is a role for scrutiny in pursuing openness in decision-making on behalf of local people, in light of changes to services and of the Government's proposals around devolving more power down to local communities. For example, if a member of the public – or indeed an individual member of the council – has a question about an item of expenditure that has been published on-line, where do they raise that question and who will judge whether it is a reasonable question to which the council should provide an answer? There is a danger with the transparency agenda that it becomes a new Freedom of Information-style burden, with councils being flooded with queries about small items of expenditure, and the public being frustrated that although they have lots of information, they still don't have the power to get things changed. Scrutiny could position itself as having a process for considering such queries to determine whether, in the light of the whole picture of council expenditure, they illustrate a real problem that needs to be addressed. Councillor Call for Action could be one such route, through ward councillors. Building public views and consultation into the budget scrutiny process could be another. It might threaten a great deal of work for scrutiny but could help position it at the heart of the new transparency and accountability agenda.
4. What is CfPS doing to influence this agenda?
- 4.1 CfPS has been running a campaign called "Accountability Works" since April which aims to promote the value of scrutiny and accountability, particularly at a time when it can be tempting to dispense with it on the grounds of expense or organisational expediency.

¹ Our forthcoming publication on place-based budgets, and our next Library Monitor (being published later this year) will expand on the issue of value for money and cost-benefit analyses being used in scrutiny reviews.

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- 4.2 This autumn we are planning to stage a series of regional events throughout England and Wales. These events are intended for chief executives, senior officers, leaders and senior members, heads of partner organisations and other senior figures in local decision making. Working with scrutiny practitioners from each region (through the National Scrutiny Forum) we will discuss with these people exactly how local accountability can be maintained and strengthened, and the important role that it plays in local democracy. These events will, we hope, be used as a springboard to further more local discussions about these issues in local areas.
- 4.3 We will also be providing organisations with the opportunity to sign up to an Accountability Charter, which will act as a statement of intent for public bodies, saying that they are committed to the principles of accountability. Practitioners will be able to hold organisations to account on whether they live up to these principles, and we will be providing further information and guidance on this at the end of the summer.
- 4.4 We are continuing to try to influence the development of policy by engaging with the Government. We are working closely with officers and members at the LGA to ensure that scrutiny plays a central part in the self-regulation framework for local government which will be set out in the coming months.

Further reading

- “Global challenge: local solutions – responses to the recession” (CfPS, 2009)
- “Green Light” (guide to scrutiny and performance management) (CfPS, 2010)
- “Accountability Works” (CfPS, 2010)
- “Cannot find server: reconnecting local accountability” (CfPS, 2010)
- “National survey of overview and scrutiny in local government” (CfPS, 2010)
- “Library Monitor 11: Value for money and cost benefit analysis” (CfPS, 2010, forthcoming)
- “Between a rock and a hard place: accountability and area-based budgets” (CfPS, 2010, forthcoming)
- “Freedom to lead: trust to deliver” (LGA, 2009)
- “Control shift” (Conservative Party, 2009)
- “Equity and excellence” (the Health White Paper) (Department of Health, 2010)

Policy briefings from CfPS

The Centre for Public Scrutiny produces a series of policy practice briefings on subjects likely to be of interest to scrutiny practitioners.

- 1 Future challenges for scrutiny (July 2010)
- 2 Scrutiny and place-based budgets / Total Place (July 2010)
- 3 Policing White Paper (August 2010)
- 4 Returning to the committee system of decision-making (August 2010)
- 5 Arguments for keeping dedicated scrutiny officer support (August 2010)

New briefings will be announced during 2010/11.



better scrutiny for better government

The Future for Scrutiny Ed Hammond, Centre for Public Scrutiny

The National Context

There is significant pressure at the moment to find **efficiencies and cost savings** in all areas of the public sector at the moment. This is being felt particularly keenly in local government, which needs to battle to retain front line services while coping with significant reductions in funding from the centre.

This is happening against the backdrop of a **decline in public trust** in public services, which was most recently sparked by the MPs' expenses scandal. Politicians (and many service users) have frequently complained that local services are remote from their users, and that this has been exacerbated by a focus (in local government and elsewhere) on performance targets imposed by Government, and on inspection or assessment (such as Comprehensive Area Assessment).

There is also a need to work more **in partnership with other agencies**. A programme called Total Place has been running since last year which has been about finding opportunities for radically different ways of working in local areas. The talk is all about breaking down "institutional silos" – a jargonistic way of talking about the way that individual organisations often end up acting like monolithic entities rather than talking to each other. It's an old idea, but there is now some real momentum behind Total Place and over the next eighteen months or two years it is going to be at the centre of some pretty radical changes to the way that things happen locally.

But what on earth does all this have to do with scrutiny at local level?

It is important because even these big picture issues are going to have an impact on the way that you work as scrutiny members. Scrutiny doesn't operate in a bubble and different authorities around the country are currently doing exactly what you're doing – looking at their commitments, their responsibilities and their capacity and seeing how they can maximise their **value for money**. This is the ideal time to be carrying out this kind of work.

Different Ways of Working

Total Place, the need to demonstrate value for money and the decline in public trust will all have an impact on how scrutiny works in future. Scrutiny needs to be clued up to the needs of local people, responsive to change and willing and able to step outside of the comfort zone of just "looking at the council".

This will mean less committee work and more targeted, direct reviews and task groups looking at specific issues.

Performance management will be central to this. Making scrutiny more responsive and ensuring that you're adding value where it's most needed means that you need to make performance management – and a rigorous approach to how it can help you to improve services – the centre of the scrutiny process. You can use performance information to help you to decide what you put on your work programme, and the questions that you ask officers at committee meetings. This is central to making scrutiny itself more "value for money", because you are using performance information to ensure that you are looking at the issues that really need scrutiny's input.

Thinking about your role as leaders in the community is also vital. You are the people with the credibility and legitimacy – as democratically-elected representatives – to seek to influence what council officers, and partners, are doing. You understand the needs and wishes of your constituents and it's vital that you bring this to the table, and use it to influence wider scrutiny work.

Focusing on the need to be flexible is important. You need to know how the scrutiny function works, and for that you need structures and systems in place. However, scrutiny also needs to be responsive. If a critical local issue suddenly emerges, but it's eleven weeks before the next relevant committee meeting, there has to be a way to allow scrutiny to investigate the issue and, by so doing, to remain relevant to local people. **Task groups, challenge panels** and other means of working can take you away from the artificial constraints of committee meetings and can often make scrutiny more relevant, timely and value for money.

Finally, **think about how you're going to build a relationship with local partners.** This is less about legal powers – more about building a positive rapport and using it to try to influence what they do. This is vital, because more and more services are being delivered in partnership with other agencies and you need to start building those links now, to ensure that you stay relevant. It's also important to build links with **other scrutineers** such as police authorities, probation trusts and local involvement networks in the NHS – and scrutiny functions from neighbouring local authorities, with whom you can carry out **joint scrutiny** from time to time.

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD - 20th SEPTEMBER 2010

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LAW, HR AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

GOOD SCRUTINY AWARDS – CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides details of the annual Good Scrutiny Awards which have been recently presented by the Centre for Public Scrutiny. The winners of the awards provide good examples of best practice in scrutiny and demonstrate the merits that have been achieved by scrutiny in some other authorities.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Centre for Public Scrutiny organises an annual 'Good Scrutiny Awards' scheme. Entries are open to any public sector organisations who are engaged in scrutiny. The awards, in its 3rd year, showcase the work of non-executives actively engaged in scrutiny and accountability across the public sector. This year, a record 95 entries were received. The winners of the awards were announced at the Centre for Public Scrutiny Annual Conference, held in June.

The entries demonstrated how scrutiny has enabled some of the most vulnerable groups to get their voices heard, showed innovative ways to save money and improve services, and exerted influence through imaginative use of the media and the scrutiny process.

- 1.2 The categories in the awards are explained in section 2 along with the winners of each award. Further detail for each winner is available in Appendices 1a to 1j. Although the awards are national, it is worth noting that five of this year's winners (out of ten categories) were geographical neighbours of Wirral:
- Warrington Borough Council
 - Cheshire West and Cheshire Council
 - Liverpool Guild of Students
 - Merseyside Police Authority
 - Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Services (LINK host)

2. Categories and Award winners

2.1 Overall Impact Award – Hertfordshire County Council

With only two officers supporting scrutiny, and in response to concerns about scrutiny's effectiveness and impact, Hertfordshire County Council changed their scrutiny structure and processes. A leaner, more focused way of working, with fewer committees, shorter reports, more robust recommendations, plus innovations such as a scrutiny café for their budget scrutiny process, have made scrutiny more effective and valued by a range of stakeholders. (For further detail, see Appendix 1a).

2.2 Accountable organisation of the year – Liverpool Guild of Students

Taking new steps to ensure increased accountability to its members, the Guild created a scrutiny function in 2009/10. The Board of Trustees wanted to ensure that they were helping the student community in the best ways possible by placing students at the heart of their planning and decision-making process. The Student Council has looked elsewhere to see what works in other settings and has recruited independent people from outside the university to help them develop their scrutiny function. (For further detail, see Appendix 1b).

2.3 Added Value – Warrington Borough Council

On receiving numerous complaints by the public regarding the town's largest cemetery, Warrington embarked on an ambitious project to raise standards and enable the bereaved to bury their loved ones with dignity and respect. By meeting with the citizens of Warrington who visited the cemetery and identifying realistic measures to deliver improvements, scrutiny has achieved success not only with significant long-term savings but also with addressing an issue of real local concern. (For further detail, see Appendix 1c).

2.4 Community Influence – London Borough of Enfield

In response to a spate of violent incidents resulting in the death of 5 young people in the borough, Full Council approved the establishment of a Scrutiny Commission to undertake a review into life opportunities for young people. Members worked with partners and listened to the views of young people in a variety of different contexts. From this they were able to build up a comprehensive picture of how to improve the quality of life for young people in the area. (For further detail, see Appendix 1d).

2.5 Innovation - Cheshire West and Chester Council

The Every Child Matters Select Panel in the new authority of Cheshire West and Chester carried out a review of how to enhance the lives and future prospects of children in the care of the council. Involving young people in such scrutiny reviews is not new – but the way that the scrutiny team went out of their way to engage young people in care and how they did so made this review different. (For further detail, see Appendix 1e).

2.6 Joint Working -

2.6.1 London Borough of Hounslow

A scrutiny review into Speech and Language Commissioning by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel has evolved into an area-wide commissioning pathfinder scheme of the same name proving that good scrutiny can make a difference. By bringing together the local authority, the PCT, the new NHS provider, schools and academics with parents and young people with special education needs (SEN), scrutiny has been able to start a movement within the local area that has attracted substantial funds and delivered tangible benefits for young people with SEN and their parents/carers. (For further detail, see Appendix 1f).

2.6.2 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council undertook a review into child poverty as part of a project supporting the development of Save the Children's Child Poverty Solutions Website and Toolkit aimed at local authorities and partner agencies. The review brought together all 5 scrutiny committees and involved working closely with the Executive and local partners. Young people were able to feed into the review which sought to represent their experiences of poverty in the area. (For further detail, see Appendix 1g).

- 2.7 Practitioner of the year – Diane Clark, Merseyside Police Authority
Diane Clark is chair of the Police Authority’s Performance Scrutiny and Review Committee – an independent member who has taken the initiative to expand the scope of the committee beyond the traditional focus on police performance statistics to look at more fundamental issues of crime and disorder. (For further detail, see Appendix 1h).
- 2.8 Raising the profile – Birmingham City Council
Following a critical Annual Performance Assessment of children’s social services, Birmingham’s executive asked scrutiny to carry out an inquiry. The resulting report, entitled “Who Cares?”, was hard-hitting and received unprecedented local and national media coverage. The report’s recommendations were unanimously agreed cross-party and fully accepted by the executive. Scrutiny had an immediate and high-profile impact and is helping Birmingham tackle its deep-rooted and serious problems in children’s social care. (For further detail, see Appendix 1i).
- 2.9 Team of the Year – Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Services (LINK host)
The biggest LINK in the country has had a remarkable rise to prominence culminating in external recognition for its achievements. Facilitated by the Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Services, Liverpool LINK has prospered under governance structures which encourage and support the involvement of local people whilst ensuring that individual views do not become dominant. (For further detail, see Appendix 1j).
- 3 Financial implications**
None
- 4 Staffing implications**
None
- 5 Equal Opportunities implications**
None
- 6 Community Safety implications**
None
- 7 Local Agenda 21 implications**
None
- 8 Planning implications**
None
- 9 Anti-poverty implications**
None
- 10 Human Rights implications**
None
- 11 Social Inclusion implications**
None
- 12 Local Member Support implications**
None

13 Background Papers
None

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the report be noted.

Good Scrutiny Awards 2010

Innovation



Hertfordshire County Council

With only two officers supporting scrutiny in this large county council, and in response to concerns about scrutiny's effectiveness and impact, Hertfordshire County Council streamlined their scrutiny structure and processes. A leaner, more focused way of working, with fewer committees, shorter reports, more robust recommendations, plus innovations such as a scrutiny café for their budget scrutiny process, have made scrutiny more effective and valued by a range of stakeholders.

Impact

- Over 18 months Hertfordshire have streamlined their committees down to two.
- They have adopted an innovative way of doing scrutiny, holding 1 or 2 whole day meetings to gather evidence and produce short reports based on clear objectives and robust and achievable recommendations.
- Budget scrutiny has changed from a formal meeting in the council chamber to a 'scrutiny café' approach which has involved more people and produced more effective recommendations.

Why shortlisted

- Hertfordshire demonstrated realism about their low level of resources and have adopted new ways of working that make the most of them.
- The entry demonstrated that it was possible to develop a different approach to scrutiny that was "leaner, tighter, more focused and was achieving more for less".
- Adopting the scrutiny café for budget scrutiny and holding six month review of recommendations meetings with the executive showed willingness to innovate for more effective outcomes.

“ Senior officers and executive members believe scrutiny provides a well thought through challenge to monitoring policy implementation. Scrutiny's current success and high profile is due to listening to feedback from all concerned and revising practice to address this feedback. ”

Caroline Tapster, Chief Executive, Hertfordshire County Council

“ Fantastic model of innovation and effective scrutiny. ”

Claer Lloyd-Jones, Good Scrutiny Awards 2010 Judge

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Good Scrutiny Awards 2010



Liverpool Guild of Students

Taking new steps to ensure increased accountability to its members, the Guild created a scrutiny function in 2009/10. The Board of Trustees wanted to ensure that they were helping the student community in the best ways possible by placing students at the heart of their planning and decision-making process. The Student Council has looked around to see what works in other settings and has recruited independent people from outside the university to help them develop their scrutiny function.

Impact

- The implementation of scrutiny is being promoted as good practice at national conferences across the sector later this year.
- Elected representatives reflect concerns from their 'communities' and Student Council has regular opportunities to comment on the process.
- The Guild recognises the role of 'independent minded' students and panel members can attend site visits and are encouraged to carry out their own research.
- Scrutiny has already had an impact on performance measures, timescales and communications – it has a more focused approach towards achieving positive change.

Why shortlisted

- This entry demonstrates an innovative (perhaps unique) approach to scrutiny and accountability in an academic environment.
- Elected student representatives and external co-optees are working together to develop scrutiny so that it supports the Guild's mission to 'listen, lobby and lead'.
- Although in its early days, this entry shows evidence that scrutiny has already begun to influence strategy.
- This work shows the Student Council taking a new approach to holding the Board of Trustees to account.

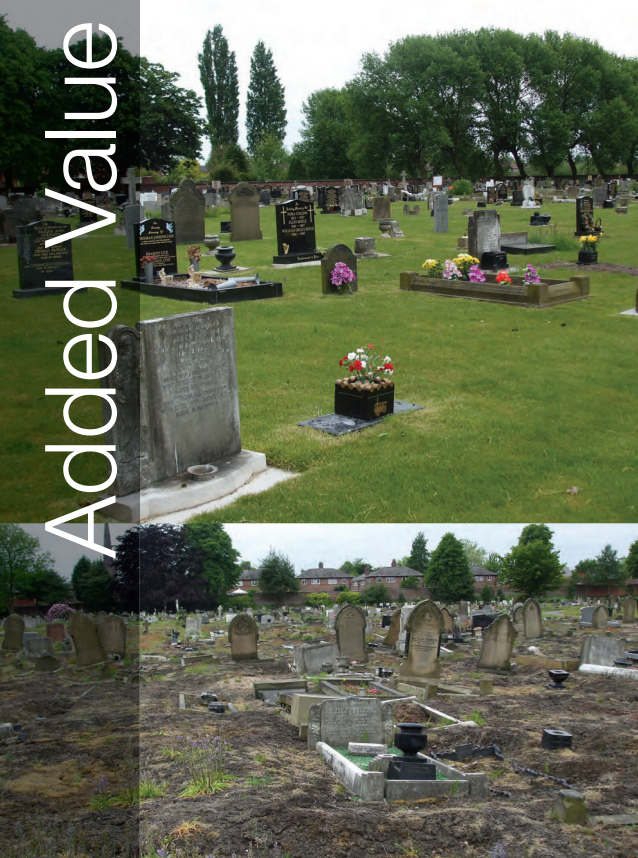
“ Liverpool Guild of Students has delved into the unknown successfully by changing its model which has allowed it to be more accountable by placing students at the heart of the planning and decision making process. Not only has this ensured that the views and concerns of the membership are being reflected, but it also fulfils an aim of Students' Unions to give their members opportunities to develop themselves. ”

Kimberley Neal, Student Representation Coordinator, Association of Managers in Students Unions (AMSU) Reps Group Regional Co-ordinator (North West)

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Good Scrutiny Awards 2010

Added Value



Warrington Borough Council

On receiving numerous complaints by the public regarding the town's largest cemetery, Warrington embarked on an ambitious project to raise standards and enable the bereaved to bury their loved ones with dignity and respect. By meeting with the citizens of Warrington who visited the cemetery and identifying realistic measures to deliver improvements, scrutiny has achieved success not only with significant long term savings but also with addressing an issue of real local concern.

“ I felt like I was burying my children in a tip but when I saw what the council had achieved I cried, I was so happy to see the plot all green. ”

Mrs. O'Malley, bereaved resident

Impact

- Scrutiny secured £15,000 for a project to improve its appearance; using this to demonstrate the potential impact of additional expenditure.
- The committee secured a further £85,000 from the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.
- Members saved £1 million, which would have been spent in finding and developing a site for a new cemetery, by proposing a more economical approach.
- The much improved appearance and maintenance of the cemetery provided emotional added value to the citizens of Warrington who had buried departed loved ones there.

Why shortlisted

- The judges were extremely moved by this valuable piece of work which had a profound impact on local people's lives.
- Scrutiny delivered significant savings for the authority.
- This example demonstrates the ability of scrutiny to find a solution to a local problem that has caused significant concern.
- The project added value to an often forgotten public service.

“ [Scrutiny's] work has added value because they have secured valuable limited resources to extend the life of the cemetery by 8-10 years. Their work heavily influenced our decision-making and as a direct result we changed our plans for the 2010/11 budget. ”

Cllr Ian Marks,
Leader of the Council

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Good Scrutiny Awards 2010



Community Influence

London Borough of Enfield

In response to a spate of violent incidents resulting in the death of 5 young people in the borough Full Council approved the establishment of a Scrutiny Commission to undertake a review into life opportunities for young people. Members worked with partners and listened to the views of young people in a variety of different contexts. From this they were able to build up a comprehensive picture of how to improve the quality of life for young people in the area.

Impact

- The high profile of the review combined with its quality ensured tangible benefits for young people.
- The level of engagement with young people ensured buy-in to recommendations which led to the saving of a youth centre in a deprived area and the allocation of £278,250 of additional council and partnership funding.
- The legacy of this piece of work will be a long one with partners now working jointly as a result of the review.
- A new sense of understanding between different parts of the community has been achieved.

Why shortlisted

- This piece of work shows the dedication of all those involved to engage partners and young people which is backed up by the Full Council's faith in scrutiny's ability.
- The Commission - realising the need to understand the issue from the perspective of both service providers and young people – developed a comprehensive and innovative engagement strategy.
- A significant amount of community engagement was undertaken.
- The review helped to break down preconceptions on all sides.
- Co-opting two head teachers, the Police Borough Commander and the Head of Commissioning for Children's Services for Enfield NHS showed a commendable commitment to partnership working.

“ We were visited by the Corporate Scrutiny department and an immediate first aid package was prepared and put into action. This was at the end of 2008 and by 31.3.09 we were solvent and flourishing. ”

Jack Lyons,
Manager, Hanlon Centre

“ The quality of partnership working between scrutiny and the police has been outstanding. Crucial is the shared understanding of values in trying to improve young peoples lives. ”

Dave Osborn,
Police Superintendent

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Good Scrutiny Awards 2010

Innovation



Cheshire West and Chester Council

The Every Child Matters Select Panel in the new authority of Cheshire West and Chester carried out a review of how to enhance the lives and future prospects of children in the care of the council. Involving young people in such scrutiny reviews is not new – but the way that the scrutiny team went out of their way to engage young people in care and how they did so made this review particularly special.

Impact

- Young people in the care of the council were engaged in the scrutiny review through a series of fun activities such as a trip to the zoo and an activity centre called Go Ape.
- The young people took part in the panel's formal hearings, questioning the executive member, presenting their ideas and commenting on the final report.
- Another positive outcome is that the young people will continue to be involved in scrutiny not just on issues directly affecting them but on other issues.
- This innovative approach has helped build constructive relationships in this new unitary authority, helping embed a positive attitude towards scrutiny.

Why shortlisted

- This entry showed Cheshire West and Chester doing scrutiny in a way that was quite different, with judges commenting positively on the “degree and depth” of young people’s involvement.
- It showed that “scrutiny can even be fun”, with young people, councillors and officers engaging in team-building and working together informally.
- Judges were moved by one young person’s comment that “what they told us would happen at the start of the review, has happened”.

“ Children from foster care and residential homes were listened to and we were all made to feel important, valuable and that we would be involved in making a difference to our lives and the lives of children coming into the care system in the future. ”

James, aged 17, young person resident in a Cheshire West and Chester children’s home

“ ...It’s not every day that Councillors go swinging through the trees to gather evidence for scrutiny reviews! ”

Cllr Mike Jones, Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council

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Good Scrutiny Awards 2010

Joint Working



London Borough of Hounslow

A scrutiny review into Speech and Language Commissioning by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel has evolved into an area wide commissioning pathfinder scheme of the same name proving that good scrutiny can make waves. By bringing together the local authority, the PCT, the new NHS provider, schools and academics with parents and young people with special education needs (SEN) scrutiny has been able to start a movement within the local area that has attracted substantial funds and delivered tangible benefits for young people with SEN and their parents/carers.

Impact

- The project resulting from this scrutiny review has attracted almost £60k of additional funding from different grants to augment the £90k that it received as a pathfinder, securing future momentum for the project.
- A number of issues that parents/carers of children with SEN were grappling with have been brought under the same umbrella and parents are now engaged with scrutiny and accountability as part of the commissioning process.
- Scrutiny has commissioned 5 films which are already attracting interest and will help draw attention to the project.

Why shortlisted

- This piece of work shows that scrutiny is capable of providing redress to citizens for their concerns and can lead to changes in the way services are delivered and decisions made.
- This review originated from a single submission by a parent who was dissatisfied with services for her child.
- Realising the weight of the issues and demand amongst parents for involvement, the review brought parents and service providers together to determine how services for those with SEN needed to be reorganised.
- A remarkable pathfinder project that has helped to raise the profile of the issue as well as cement the reputation of scrutiny.

“ The issue of speech and language therapy provision in Hounslow is one that parents of disabled children have been struggling with for many years, until the involvement of Scrutiny. ”

Michele Rooney, Parent in Hounslow SEN support group - Parents in Touch

“ The involvement of Scrutiny has added a sense of urgency and has raised the project’s profile to a much higher level than would have been possible otherwise. ”

Nancy Goodchild, Head of Primary Care and Mainstream Speech & Language Therapy, Hounslow

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Good Scrutiny Awards 2010



Joint Working

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC (RCT) undertook a review into child poverty as part of a project supporting the development of Save the Children's Child Poverty Solutions Website and Toolkit aimed at local authorities and partner agencies. The review brought together all 5 scrutiny committees and involved working closely with the Executive and local partners. Young people were able to feed into the review which sought to represent their experiences of poverty in the area.

Impact

- A reduction of waiting times in the Benefits section from 37 to 15.5 days, with fewer staff.
- A 2 year funded benefits maximisation project with the Citizens Advice Bureau – to date this has cost the authority £25,000 to fund and generated an income of £506,000.
- The creation of a Child Poverty Champion (member role), and a Child Poverty Co-ordinator (officer role) to monitor a suite of Child Poverty indicators.
- Wales Programme for Improvement Action Plan "Regeneration of our Communities – Social Regeneration" has been amended to include the development of a Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan.

Why shortlisted

- RCT was chosen as a pilot authority for a project initiated by the Welsh Local Government Association, Save the Children and Welsh Assembly Government.
- The authority was well prepared to undertake the review due to good existing relationships between executive and non-executive members who regularly attend portfolio based meetings.
- Scrutiny arranged a round table event for local service providers in an attempt to get to the bottom of issues and come to shared conclusions.
- Members met with the Framwaith's Young People's Referencing Group who were able to highlight personal and peer experiences of poverty.

Although Scrutiny in RCT had adopted a constructive approach this does not mean that it hasn't been persistent and forensic in holding us, the Executive to account, and rightly so.

Councillor Clayton Willis, Cabinet Member for Human Resources and Open Government

The improvement to the Council's website, was a prime example of the Council's response – they were very receptive to the advice and opinions of the bureau as a critical friend.

Erika Helps, Chief Executive, Rhondda Citizens Advice Bureau

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Good Scrutiny Awards 2010

Practitioner of the Year



Merseyside Police Authority – Diane Clark

Diane is chair of the Police Authority’s Performance Scrutiny and Review Committee – an independent member who has taken the initiative to expand the scope of the committee beyond the traditional focus on police performance statistics to look at more fundamental issues of crime and disorder.

Impact

- The Chief Constable now emphasises that discretion and professionalism of service should be delivered, rather than chasing specific crime reduction or sanction detection targets.
- Running awareness workshops resulted in policy changes and consequent reductions in local crime.
- Using personal skills to place scrutiny at the centre of the improvement process, resulted in significant, tangible benefits to the local police force.
- Significant improvements in local satisfaction levels.

Why shortlisted

- Diane demonstrates how one member can have a profound impact on the culture of a whole organisation.
- She advocates feedback from both residents and the Community Safety partnerships to ensure members are aware of community issues as part of the planning process.
- The scrutiny plan dovetails into Police Authority and Force plans allowing the committee to be fully involved in the improvement process.

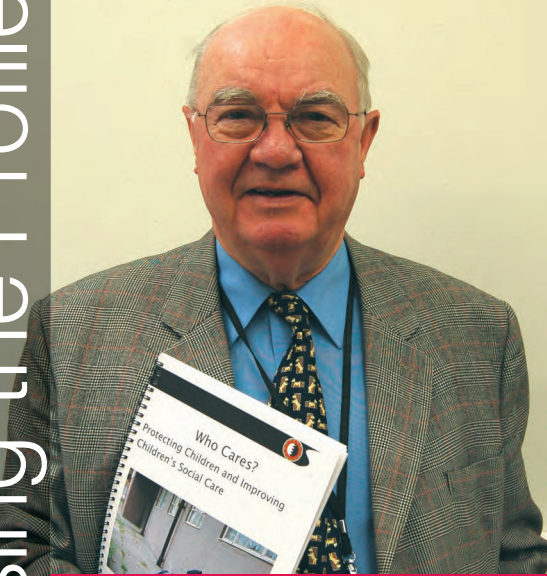
“ [Diane] demonstrates effective leadership, encouraging the development and involvement of other members of the Police Authority, and advising and guiding members in an informed manner... [She has ensured] that the Police Authority focus is not just on performance statistics but encompasses the quality of service aspects that reflect the cultural changes within Force. ”

Bernard Lawson, Deputy Chief Constable, Merseyside Police

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Good Scrutiny Awards 2010

Raising the Profile



Birmingham City Council

Following a critical Annual Performance Assessment of children's social services, Birmingham's executive asked scrutiny to carry out an inquiry, chaired by Cllr Len Clark. The resulting report, entitled "Who Cares?", was hard-hitting and received unprecedented local and national media coverage. The report's recommendations were unanimously agreed cross-party and fully accepted by the executive. Scrutiny had an immediate and high-profile impact and is helping Birmingham tackle its deep-rooted and serious problems in children's social care.

Impact

- The media coverage of this report was massive: Cllr Clark did 11 interviews, including Radio WM, Midlands Today, Sky News, Channel 4 and the Press Association, with articles in every national newspaper.
- Scrutiny made interim recommendations on urgent issues and the final report was debated by the City Council, with scrutiny monitoring the resulting action plan.
- This entry demonstrates a new culture of openness and willingness to be challenged.

Why shortlisted

- The scale of press coverage was described by the judges as "absolutely striking", as was the nature of it.
- Many national reports described the "Who Cares?" report as coming from an external inquiry, as if they could not believe such a frank and hard-hitting report could come from "within" the council.
- The judges felt that this was scrutiny acting as a truly independent "critical friend".

“ In a refreshingly brief 22-page document, Cllr Clark and his all-party inquiry did not pull their punches... It is possible that the Clark report may mark a turning point for children's services. ”

**Public Affairs Correspondent,
 Birmingham Post**

“ Cllr Clark's work on Protecting Children and Improving Children's Social Care is an excellent example of everything our 'critical friends' in Scrutiny should be: robust, challenging, fair and focused on improving outcomes for our city. ”

**Cllr Mike Whitby, Leader of Birmingham
 City Council**

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Good Scrutiny Awards 2010

Team of the Year



Liverpool Local Involvement Network (LINK)

The biggest LINK in the country has had a remarkable rise to prominence culminating in external recognition for its achievements. Facilitated by the Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Services Liverpool LINK has prospered under governance structures which encourage and support the involvement of local people whilst ensuring that individual views do not become dominant.

Impact

- The Support Team have ensured that the LINK has maintained its rapid development and have encouraged members to seek continuing development of both their own skills and of the LINK itself.
- Three well received reports have enabled the LINK to forge strategic relationships within the local partnership.
- One of the outcomes of the reports has been that one of the Neighbourhood Working Groups has changed the focus of one its priorities.
- The LINK has also completed two “enter and view” visits based on the protocol adopted during the setting up period.

Why shortlisted

- Having only been founded as a team in November 2008 the LINK had managed to run a service user event and draft governance and branding arrangements by December of the same year.
- The LINK now has a membership of over 2600 making it the largest LINK in the country.
- The provision of training has ensured that governance arrangements are “brought to life” and provide a robust yet inclusive framework for involvement.
- The quality of its work has attracted local partners to seek LINK views and members of the team have been invited to events to deliver and share good practice.

“ Liverpool LINK is exemplary in evidencing that people working together can make a difference. ”

Paul Greenwood, User, Carer and Public Engagement Programme Lead / Regional LINK lead

“ The time spent on developing the membership and relationships... has resulted in effective joint working which has influenced some of the key agendas and challenges in the city. ”

Cllr Ron Gould, Executive Member for Healthcare and Safeguarding

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UPDATE ON WORK PROGRAM : COUNCIL EXCELLENCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 21/09/10

Reports to assist in monitoring the Committee's work programme

It was agreed by the Scrutiny Chairs Group in September 2008 to use the following reports to monitor the work programme for each Scrutiny Committee. The last item on each Scrutiny Committee agenda should be 'Review of the Committee Work Programme'.

Report 1 - Monitoring Report for Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

This report will list all items that have been selected by the Committee for inclusion on the work programme for the current year.

It will also include items, such as previous Panel Reviews, where recommendations have been made to Cabinet. It is important that the implementation of these recommendations is monitored. Otherwise there is no measure of the success of scrutiny.

For each item on the work programme, the report will give a description, an indication of how the item will be dealt with, a relative timescale for the work and brief comments on progress.

Report 2 - Suggestions for Additions to Work Programme

The Work Programme for the Committee should be reviewed at each meeting. This will enable members to ask for new Items to be added to the programme. This report will list any newly suggested items. Committee will then have the opportunity to agree (or not) for them to be added to the programme.

Report 3 - Proposed Outline Meeting Schedule for the Municipal Year

The report will, for each scheduled Committee meeting, list those items which are likely to be on the meeting agenda. This will give the opportunity for Committee members to take a greater lead in organising their work programme.

Report 4 - Progress Report on In-Depth Panel Reviews

This report will give a very brief update on progress / timescales for in-depth panel reviews which are in the 'ownership' of the Committee.

REPORT 1
MONITORING REPORT FOR SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
COUNCIL EXCELLENCE : 2010 / 2011

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	Complete?
17/03/10	Community Cohesion	Officer Report (Carolyn Curr)		Council Excellence Committee meeting of 17 th March 2010 requested that this item be included on the Committee's work programme for 2010/11.	
17/03/10	Freedom of Information Act	Officer Report (Ian Coleman)		Follow-up report (from meeting held on 17 th March 2010) presented to 8 th July meeting. No further actions requested.	
08/07/10	Future of Performance Management / replacement of CAA: - How will performance management operate once the CAA and statutory Performance Indicators have been removed? - Who collects the current PI data, how much effort is involved, and what use is made of it? - Which Performance Indicators are relevant and should be retained? - What information do members need to monitor the local authority effectively?	Officer Report (Carolyn Curr)		A verbal report on the current view of the future for performance monitoring in the authority will be provided at the meeting on 21 st September.	
08/07/10	Performance Monitoring (Quarterly updates on existing performance indicators – 'Exceptions' only will be reported).	Officer Reports (Carolyn Curr)		Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports will be included on each agenda from September onwards.	
08/07/10	Change Programme: - Regular updates on proposed savings; - Monitor the effectiveness of the Change Programme;	Officer Reports (Dave Green)		Suggested report on the progress of the Strategic Change Programme Board to be provided for the meeting 18 th November	
08/07/10	Common Administrative Processes	Officer Reports (Dave Green)		Suggested report on progress of the project at the meeting on 18 th November.	

Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	Complete?
08/07/10	Financial Reporting / Budget: - Monitoring the financial statements - How the authority performs against savings targets; - Review the impact on local residents where savings are made; - Impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review on the borough;	Officer Reports (Ian Coleman)		Financial / Budget Monitoring reports will be included on each meeting agenda.	
08/07/10	'Total Place': - What is the role for the concept of 'Total Place' in the borough?; - What is happening with partners to establish areas for cooperation, for example, how will DASS and NHS work together to streamline 'elderly' care?	Officer Reports (Carolyn Curr)		Report on the background to 'Total Place and successor arrangements – Community Budgets' to be provided at the meeting on 21 st September.	
08/07/10	Office Accommodation: - The EC Harris report was referred to the Council Excellence Committee by Cabinet (24 June 2010); - Need to understand the Cabinet timetable; - What are the implications for the Council's Data Centres?; - Future role for agile working	Officer reports plus site visits. (Bill Norman / Ian Brand)		Special meeting of the Committee arranged for 24 th August 2010. Further report will be provided at the meeting on 21 st September.	
08/07/10	Future of Cultural Services: - Where should Cultural Services fit in the organisation?; - How can the service be best managed?;	Possible joint work with Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee		Suggested report at the meeting on 31 st January 2011.	
08/07/10	Monitoring of items of expenditure exceeding £500: - How does the system operate?	Officer report to a future meeting (Ian Coleman)		Issue initially raised by a member at the Committee meeting on 08/07/10. Report on 'Publication of Expenditure' at the meeting on 21 st September.	

REPORT 2
SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO WORK PROGRAMME
COUNCIL EXCELLENCE : 21/09/10

Topic Description	Topic suggested by	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Completion Date
None			

REPORT 3
PROPOSED OUTLINE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR
COUNCIL EXCELLENCE : 2010 / 2011

Meeting Date	Topic Description
08/07/10	Financial Monitoring Housing Benefit / Council Tax Benefit Annual Report Customer Services Annual Report Treasury Management Annual Report Audit Commission Performance Management Review Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy Freedom of Information requests (follow-up report from meeting held on 17 th March 2010) Forward Plan Office Accommodation Work Programme Update Forward Plan
24/08/10	Office Accommodation (Special Meeting)
21/09/10	Financial Monitoring Tax, Income & Benefits Budget Projections 2011-15 Treasury Management Customer Services Focus Group Publication of Expenditure Managing Attendance IRRV Conference – Harrogate Catering tenders Delivering efficiency and measuring and reporting Value for Money gains in local services Q1 Performance Monitoring – Report concentrating on red / amber ‘exceptions’ plus a verbal update on the future plans for performance monitoring ‘Total Place’ and successor arrangements – Community Budgets Office Accommodation Work Programme Update Forward Plan

Meeting Date	Topic Description
18/11/10	Financial Monitoring, General Financial Matters and Budget Projections Impact of the Comprehensive Spending Review Q2 Performance Monitoring – Report concentrating on red / amber ‘exceptions’ Progress of Change Programme Common Administrative Processes Work Programme Update Forward Plan
31/01/11	Financial Monitoring, General Financial Matters and Budget Projections Q3 Performance Monitoring – Report concentrating on red / amber ‘exceptions’ Future of Cultural Services Work Programme Update Forward Plan
16/03/10	Financial Monitoring, General Financial Matters and Budget Projections Work Programme Update Forward Plan

**REPORT 4
PROGRESS REPORT ON IN-DEPTH PANEL REVIEWS
COUNCIL EXCELLENCE : 21/09/10**

Title of Review	Members of Panel	Progress to Date	Date Due to report to Committee
None at present			

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Updated Work Programme for Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

BEGINNING OF THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010 /2011

It was agreed at the Overview and Scrutiny Chairs meeting to adopt the following procedure to allow the committee members to monitor their work programme. It is felt that the work programme should be a 'living' document and as such is intended to act as a guide for the Committee throughout the year, while providing the degree of flexibility needed to respond to any emerging or pressing issues as they arise. Committee members, and particularly the Chair, should have a major role in owning and managing the work programme.

The final item on the agenda for each Scrutiny Committee will be 'Review of the Committee Work Programme'.

It is suggested that there should be four short reports. I have attached the following reports:

REPORT 1 - Lists all the issues the committee agreed to include in their Work Programme:

This report lists all items that have been selected by the Committee for inclusion on the work programme for the current year.

It also includes items, such as previous Panel Reviews, where recommendations have been made to Cabinet. It is important that the implementation of these recommendations is monitored. Otherwise there is no measure of the success of scrutiny.

For each item on the work programme, the report gives a description, an indication of how the item will be dealt with, a where possible a relative timescale for the work and brief comments on progress.

REPORT 2 - Suggestions for Additions to Work Programme

The Work Programme for the Committee should be reviewed at each meeting. This will include members having the opportunity to ask for new Items to be added to the programme. This report will list any newly suggested items. Committee will then have the opportunity to agree (or not) for them to be added to the programme.

REPORT 3 - Proposed Outline Meeting Schedule for the Municipal Year

The report lists those items which are likely to be on the meeting agenda. This will give the opportunity for Committee members to take a greater lead in organising their work programme.

REPORT 4 - Progress Report on In-Depth Panel Reviews

This report will give a very brief update on progress / timescales for in-depth panel reviews which are in the 'ownership' of the Committee.

Report 1

MONITORING REPORT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2010/2011

Date of item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Comments on Progress	Complete
OCT 2008	Wirral Music Service	Officer Report	Committee requested a further report during a budget savings debate on the Wirral Music Service on 28.10.08. At OSC on 13.01.09 a request for further statistics was made. An annual report has been requested – March 2010. A further request for an Options report to be brought to SEPT 2010 OSC.	14 Sept 2010
JAN 2009	Safeguarding - Child protection Statutory Annual Report	Officer Report	As a result of the verbal report on 'The Impact of the Baby P Case' given by Howard Cooper (13.10.09). It was agreed that a further update report would be produced in the future.	SEPT 2010
2 ND JUNE 2010	<p>The Committee received an update on its work programme and the Chair circulated a draft work programme for 2010/11 based on an overarching theme of, 'Preparing for the Future and Protecting our Priorities'. The draft included suggestions for officers to draw up a detailed report on what the new national priorities concerning academies, free schools and pupil premiums would mean for Wirral.</p> <p>Resolved – That the Chair, Spokespersons and one co-opted member meet to consider the work programme for 2010/2011</p>	Member Meeting		
2 ND JUNE 2010	The Director to inform all Members of the effect of the Academies Bill once the position had become clearer.	Officer Report		
2 ND JUNE 2010	Resolved – the Review Panel on 'Narrowing the Gap' to continue.	Panel Review		

Report 2

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO WORK PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2010/2011

Topic Description	Topic suggested by	How the topic will be dealt with	Est. Completion Date
<p>The Chair circulated a draft work programme for 2010/11 based on an overarching theme of, 'Preparing for the Future and Protecting our Priorities'. The draft included suggestions for officers to draw up a detailed report on what the new national priorities concerning academies, free schools and pupil premiums would mean for Wirral.</p> <p>Resolved – That the Chair, Spokespersons and one co-opted member meet to consider the work programme for 2010/11</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Draw up a detailed report on what the new national priorities concerning academies, free schools and pupil premiums will mean for Wirral. 	Chair	Officer Report	After the Comprehensive Spending Review.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Draw up a list of specific grants which will lose their ring fencing and set out which services they cover and the consequences of any potential redistribution of resources either this year or in future years and consider ways of mitigating this. 	Chair	Officer Report	After the Comprehensive Spending Review.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Draw up a list of any capital resources or programmes that might be affected in the future, and consider whether there might be any knock on to Children's Services from any programmes elsewhere in the authority or with external partners that might also be under threat. 	Chair	Officer Report	After the Comprehensive Spending Review.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Look at the current work of <u>the Youth Service</u> in the light of recent positive developments and investigate the impact of any potential reduction in funding either from possible cuts in specific grant like the Youth Opportunity Fund, or from general funding reductions . 2. Consider the whole area of <u>Looked After Children</u>, the work being done now, and any likely impact of future decisions on funding. 3. Consider the <u>whole area of Child Protection</u>, the work being done, the relationship with outside partners and investigate ways to ensure partners work together with the same priorities and inequities don't develop because of different budget strategies in the different organisations. 	Chair	Officer Report	Officer report back to November Meeting.
	Chair	Officer Report	Officer report back to November Meeting.
	Chair	Officer Report	Officer report back to November Meeting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Look at the work carried out by Sure Start, and the relationship between Sure Start and primary schools, and later consequences between primary and secondary schools on learning age intakes, in order to have a clear rationale to present should Sure Start lose its protection in the future 	Chair	Officer Report	Officer report back to January Meeting

Report 3

PROPOSED OUTLINE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2010/2011

Meeting Date	Topic Description

Report 4

PROGRESS REPORT ON IN-DEPTH PANEL REVIEWS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

END OF MUNICIPAL YEAR 2009/2010 - START OF MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/2011

Title of Review	Members of Panel	Progress to Date	Date Due to report back
'Narrowing the Gap'. Impact of Deprivation Funding Review CONTINUING REVIEW	tba	Draft Scope 17.09.2009 Initial Review Panel held November 2009 First round of school meetings January 2010 Further school meetings February 2010	

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Updated Work Programme Economy & Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

BEGINNING OF THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010 /2011

It was agreed at the Overview and Scrutiny Chairs meeting to adopt the following procedure to allow the committee members to monitor their work programme. It is felt that the work programme should be a 'living' document and as such is intended to act as a guide for the Committee throughout the year, while providing the degree of flexibility needed to respond to any emerging or pressing issues as they arise. Committee members, and particularly the Chair, should have a major role in owning and managing the work programme.

The final item on the agenda for each Scrutiny Committee will be 'Review of the Committee Work Programme'.

It is suggested that there should be four short reports. I have attached the following reports:

REPORT 1 - Lists all the issues the committee agreed to include in their Work Programme:

This report lists all items that have been selected by the Committee for inclusion on the work programme for the current year.

It also includes items, such as previous Panel Reviews, where recommendations have been made to Cabinet. It is important that the implementation of these recommendations is monitored. Otherwise there is no measure of the success of scrutiny.

For each item on the work programme, the report gives a description, an indication of how the item will be dealt with, a where possible a relative timescale for the work and brief comments on progress.

REPORT 2 - Suggestions for Additions to Work Programme

The Work Programme for the Committee should be reviewed at each meeting. This will include members having the opportunity to ask for new items to be added to the programme. This report will list any newly suggested items. Committee will then have the opportunity to agree (or not) for them to be added to the programme.

REPORT 3 - Proposed Outline Meeting Schedule for the Municipal Year

The report lists those items which are likely to be on the meeting agenda. This will give the opportunity for Committee members to take a greater lead in organising their work programme.

REPORT 4 - Progress Report on In-Depth Panel Reviews

This report will give a very brief update on progress / timescales for in-depth panel reviews which are in the 'ownership' of the Committee.

Report 1

MONITORING REPORT FOR ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2010/2011

Page 84

Date of item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Comments on Progress	Complete
17 TH JUNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resolved – That a work programme listing the reports from chief officers on key issues during the year and the progress of major development schemes form the basis of the committee’s work programme for the current municipal year. ▪ Performance reports, covering the remit of the Scrutiny Committee, would continue to be given on a quarterly basis. ▪ The Forward Plan for the period July to October 2010 had now been published on the Council’s intranet/website and Members’ were invited to indicate to the chair or party spokespersons whether scrutiny should take place of any items contained within the Plan. Any urgent items could also be considered. 	<p>Officer Report</p> <p>Officer Report</p> <p>Officer Report</p>	Agreed items are outlined below.	
15 TH SEPT	Housing Strategy	Officer Report		
24 TH NOV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on Housing Strategy Consultation ▪ Invest Wirral including the support of business in the present economic circumstances ▪ NGA Broadband 	<p>Officer Report</p> <p>Officer Report</p> <p>Officer Report</p>		
12 TH JAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Poverty Needs Assessment ▪ Outcomes from projects and programmes currently receiving funding and then to define the future outcomes to be achieved <p>(Programmes include Working Neighbourhoods Fund, Future Jobs Fund, HMRI, Business Start and Business Support Programmes)</p>	<p>Officer Report</p> <p>Officer Report</p>		
14 TH MAR	Review of work programme	Officer Report		

Report 3

PROPOSED OUTLINE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR ECONOMY AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2010/2011

Meeting Date	Topic Description
17TH JUNE	<p>The views of the Committee were requested concerning topics to be included in this year's scrutiny work programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resolved – That a work programme listing the reports from chief officers on key issues during the year and the progress of major development schemes form the basis of the committee's work programme for the current municipal year. ▪ Performance reports, covering the remit of the Scrutiny Committee, would continue to be given on a quarterly basis. ▪ The Forward Plan for the period July to October 2010 had now been published on the Council's intranet/website and Members' were invited to indicate to the chair or party spokespersons whether scrutiny should take place of any items contained within the Plan. Any urgent items could also be considered.
15TH SEPT	Housing Strategy
24TH NOV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on Housing Strategy Consultation ▪ Invest Wirral including the support of business in the present economic circumstances ▪ NGA Broadband
12TH JAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Poverty Needs Assessment ▪ Outcomes from projects and programmes currently receiving funding and then to define the future outcomes to be achieved (Programmes include Working Neighbourhoods Fund, Future Jobs Fund, HMRI, Business Start and Business Support Programmes)
14TH MAR	Review of work programme

Report 4

PROGRESS REPORT ON IN-DEPTH PANEL REVIEWS ECONOMY AND REGENERATION OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

START OF MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/2011

Title of Review	Members of Panel	Progress to Date	Date Due to report back

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Updated Work Programme Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

BEGINNING OF THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010 /2011

(This is a rolling programme of work and should be taken with previous years' work.)

It was agreed at the Overview and Scrutiny Chairs meeting to adopt the following procedure to allow the committee members to monitor their work programme. It is felt that the work programme should be a 'living' document and as such is intended to act as a guide for the Committee throughout the year, while providing the degree of flexibility needed to respond to any emerging or pressing issues as they arise. Committee members, and particularly the Chair, should have a major role in owning and managing the work programme.

The final item on the agenda for each Scrutiny Committee will be 'Review of the Committee Work Programme'.

It is suggested that there should be four short reports. I have attached the following reports:

REPORT 1 - Lists all the issues the committee agreed to include in their Work Programme:

This report lists all items that have been selected by the Committee for inclusion on the work programme for the current year.

It also includes items, such as previous Panel Reviews, where recommendations have been made to Cabinet. It is important that the implementation of these recommendations is monitored. Otherwise there is no measure of the success of scrutiny.

For each item on the work programme, the report gives a description, an indication of how the item will be dealt with, a where possible a relative timescale for the work and brief comments on progress.

REPORT 2 - Suggestions for Additions to Work Programme

The Work Programme for the Committee should be reviewed at each meeting. This will include members having the opportunity to ask for new items to be added to the programme. This report will list any newly suggested items. Committee will then have the opportunity to agree (or not) for them to be added to the programme.

REPORT 3 - Proposed Outline Meeting Schedule for the Municipal Year

The report lists those items which are likely to be on the meeting agenda. This will give the opportunity for Committee members to take a greater lead in organising their work programme.

REPORT 4 - Progress Report on In-Depth Panel Reviews

This report will give a very brief update on progress / timescales for in-depth panel reviews which are in the 'ownership' of the Committee.

Report 1

MONITORING REPORT FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2010/2011

Date of item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Comments on Progress	Complete
21 ST JUNE	Hospital Discharge Review/Discharge Turnaround Team	Officer Report	Further report due from the 'Discharge Turnaround Team' in Sept 2010.	June 2010?
21 ST JUNE	Transforming Adult Social Care	Officer Report	Further Officer Report to the committee – date to be agreed	tba
21 ST JUNE	<p>Review of Performance Indicators on 'red' or 'amber.'</p> <p>That the Committee look at those Performance Indicators either on red or amber and either deteriorating or not improving and requests more detailed reports on these and these be included in the Committee's work programme.</p>	Detailed Officer Reports		
21 ST JUNE	Prostrate Cancer in Wallasey and Moreton	Report by Joint Director of Public Health-		
21 ST JUNE	Alcohol Related Hospital Admissions	Officer Report		
21 ST JUNE	Your Reason, your way- reducing smoking campaign.	Officer Report	Follow up reports needed urgently.	
21 ST JUNE	VCAW "Out of hospital Scheme"	Officer Report	Follow up reports needed urgently	
21 ST JUNE	Homelessness and Health report.	Officer Report	Follow up reports needed urgently	
21 ST JUNE	The impact of the budget on services	Officer Report		
21 ST JUNE	Chiropody services	Officer Report		
21 ST JUNE	Report from health colleagues on the Coalition Government's changes to the health service	Officer Report		

Report 3

PROPOSED OUTLINE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR HEALTH AND WELL BEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2010/2011

Meeting Date	Topic Description

Report 4

PROGRESS REPORT ON IN-DEPTH PANEL REVIEWS HEALTH & WELL BEING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

END OF MUNICIPAL YEAR 2009/2010 - START OF MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/2011

Title of Review	Members of Panel	Progress to Date	Date Due to report back
<p style="text-align: center;">Dementia Review</p>	<p>Councillors Ann Bridson (Chair) Sheila Clarke Denise Roberts Chris Teggin</p>	<p>Scope agreed. Planning of review is ongoing. 'Evidence' gathering meetings have commenced. Meetings have taken place with representatives of the Third Sector. A focus group involving carers was held at the Devonshire Centre (Age Concern)</p> <p>Update as at 16/02/10: A number of managers and consultants have been 'interviewed' at Arrowe Park hospital and at Cheshire & Wirral Partnership Trust. An individual meeting with a carer has been held. A meeting with Wirral NHS (PCT) has also been held. Further meetings with carer groups are also anticipated.</p> <p>Update as at 01/05/10 A 'focus group' with carers has been held. Further 'interviews' have been held with managers and consultants at Arrowe Park hospital and at Cheshire & Wirral Partnership Trust.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2010 - 2011</u> Continuation of Dementia Review</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ann Bridson to continue to lead review.</p>		

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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11
(AGREED 7 June 2010)

Title:	Department:	Comments/ Justification:/outcome
<p>7th June 2010:</p> <p>Review of the Impact of the Severe Weather in January 2010</p> <p>Highway & Engineering Services Contract – Annual Review</p> <p>Carbon Reduction Progress Update - NI 185 (Council activity)</p> <p>2009/10 Quarter 4 Performance Report</p>	<p>Technical Services</p> <p>Technical Services</p> <p>Technical Services</p> <p>Technical Services Law, HR & Asset Management</p>	<p>Progress report and formal presentation – item requested by Cabinet and O&S Committee – REPORT NOTED WITH CABINET RECOMMENDATION 7.6.10</p> <p>Progress report and formal presentation on the new strategic contract with Colas Ltd that commenced on 1st April 2009 – PROGRESS NOTED 7.6.10</p> <p>Progress report on delivering Corporate Priority 2.2: - REPORT NOTED 7.6.10</p> <p>Regular report covering performance and financial issues – REPORT NOTED 7.6.10</p>
<p>15th September 2010:</p> <p>Scottish Power – Street Lighting</p> <p>Gateway 5</p> <p>Road Safety Progress Update – NI 47 & NI 48 (All KSI and Child KSI) (including review of Road Safety Audit procedure)</p> <p>Carbon Reduction Progress Update – NI 186 (Wirral-wide activity)</p>	<p>Technical Services</p> <p>Technical Services</p> <p>Technical Services</p> <p>Technical Services</p>	<p>Decision made at March 09 OSC – presentation by Scottish power reps</p> <p>Officer report on the outcome of Gateway 5 review – OSC request June 2010</p> <p>Progress report on delivering Corporate Priority 2.4: Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents</p> <p>6 monthly Progress report on delivering Corporate Priority 2.2: Reducing Wirral's carbon footprint</p>

Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Review Update	Technical Services	Update on the review of the Merseyside JMWMS
Beach Management	Technical Services	Report requested by Chair
Business Plan for Wirral's Parks	Technical Services	Business Plan linked with ongoing PACSPE Procurement Exercises
Physical Activity for Hard to Reach Groups	Technical Services	Review of the provision of physical activity for this group
2010/11 Quarter 1 Performance Report	Technical Services Law, HR & Asset Management	Regular report covering performance and financial issues
18th November 2010:		
Local Environmental Quality Update – NI 195	Technical Services	Progress report on delivering Corporate Priority 2.3: Create exemplary levels of street cleanliness
Arrowe Park Hospital Travel Plan	Technical Services	Annual review of the Hospital Travel Plan in accordance with Section 106 condition (could be delegated to Highways & Traffic Representations Panel with Committee approval)
Flood Working Group Progress Report	Technical Services	Progress report of the formal Working Group established by the O&S Committee
Carbon Reduction Progress Update – NI 185 (Council Activity)	Technical Services	6 monthly progress report on delivering Corporate Priority 2.2: Reducing the Council's carbon footprint
Arts & Museums Development Plan	Technical Services	Development Plan for Arts and Museums
Food Safety and Nutrition	Law, HR & Asset Management	Review of the work of Environmental Health and Trading Standards

Dog Fouling	Law, HR & Asset Management	Review of Dog Fouling initiatives
Doorstep Crime	Law, HR & Asset Management	Progress in Tackling Doorstep Crime
2010/11 Quarter 2 Performance Report	Technical Services Law, HR & Asset Management	Regular report covering performance and financial issues
20th January 2011:		
Waste Recycling/ Minimisation Update – NI 191 & NI 192	Technical Services	Progress report on delivering Corporate Priority 2.1: Sustain improved levels of recycling
Streetscene Environment Services Contract – Fourth Annual Review	Technical Services	Progress report and formal presentation on the strategic contract with Biffa that commenced in August 2006
Review of second phase Pavement/ Verge Parking Enforcement initiative	Technical Services	Review of second phase of initiative as requested by O&S Committee (could be delegated to Highways & Traffic Representations Panel with Committee approval)
8th March 2011:		
Flood Working Group Progress Report	Technical Services	Progress report of the formal Working Group established by the O&S Committee
Carbon Reduction Progress Update – NI 186 (Wirral-wide activity)	Technical Services	6 monthly Progress report on delivering Corporate Priority 2.2: Reducing Wirral's carbon footprint
Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC)	Technical Services	CRC Initiative Progress Report
Underage Sales	Law, HR & Asset Management	Progress in the Control of illicit sales to Young People.
Quarter 3 Performance Report	Technical Services Law, HR & Asset Management	Regular report covering performance and financial issues

NB: The Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee is the designated committee to provide the statutory scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership. The scrutiny work is still to be identified and is the subject of consultation between the Scrutiny committee and the community Safety Partnership.

Updated Work Programme Scrutiny Programme Board Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

BEGINNING OF THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010 /2011

It was agreed at the Overview and Scrutiny Chairs meeting to adopt the following procedure to allow the committee members to monitor their work programme. It is felt that the work programme should be a 'living' document and as such is intended to act as a guide for the Committee throughout the year, while providing the degree of flexibility needed to respond to any emerging or pressing issues as they arise. Committee members, and particularly the Chair, should have a major role in owning and managing the work programme.

The final item on the agenda for each Scrutiny Committee will be 'Review of the Committee Work Programme'.

It is suggested that there should be four short reports. I have attached the following reports:

REPORT 1 - Lists all the issues the committee agreed to include in their Work Programme:

This report lists all items that have been selected by the Committee for inclusion on the work programme for the current year.

It also includes items, such as previous Panel Reviews, where recommendations have been made to Cabinet. It is important that the implementation of these recommendations is monitored. Otherwise there is no measure of the success of scrutiny.

For each item on the work programme, the report gives a description, an indication of how the item will be dealt with, a where possible a relative timescale for the work and brief comments on progress.

REPORT 2 - Suggestions for Additions to Work Programme

The Work Programme for the Committee should be reviewed at each meeting. This will include members having the opportunity to ask for new Items to be added to the programme. This report will list any newly suggested items. Committee will then have the opportunity to agree (or not) for them to be added to the programme.

REPORT 3 - Proposed Outline Meeting Schedule for the Municipal Year

The report lists those items which are likely to be on the meeting agenda. This will give the opportunity for Committee members to take a greater lead in organising their work programme.

REPORT 4 - Progress Report on In-Depth Panel Reviews

This report will give a very brief update on progress / timescales for in-depth panel reviews which are in the 'ownership' of the Committee.

Report 1

MONITORING REPORT FOR THE SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD START OF MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/2011

Date of item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Comments on Progress	Complete
3 RD JUNE	<p>The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management provided an update on the current status of the Scrutiny Programme Board's Work Programme for the 2009/2010 municipal year and invited suggestions from Members regarding the work programme for 2010/2011. He outlined the functions of the Scrutiny Programme Board and indicated that the work programmes of the five themed overview and scrutiny committees would be presented to each meeting of the Board for progress to be reviewed.</p> <p>He set out guidance for the selection of topics for review and commented that an in-depth review should have the potential to make a difference and be carefully chosen with reference to objective criteria. He commented upon sources of ideas for topics for review and referred also to reasons for the rejection of suggested topics..</p>			
3 RD JUNE	<p><u>It was agreed:</u> That the impact on partnerships of any savings that may be required in relation to specific grants, form the basis of a scrutiny review as more information is known.</p>	<p>PANEL REVIEW</p>		
3 rd JUNE	<p><u>Alcohol Scrutiny Review</u> <u>It was agreed:</u> That the Alcohol Scrutiny Review remain as part of the work programme for the new municipal year.</p>	<p>PANEL REVIEW</p>		
3 rd JUNE	<p><u>One Council' Scrutiny Review</u> <u>Resolved</u> – That no further work be undertaken in relation to the 'One Council' Scrutiny Review at the present time.</p>	<p>PANEL REVIEW</p>	<p>Further to minute 44 (4 March 2010), the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management provided an update upon progress of the 'One Council' Scrutiny Review. He outlined the objective of the review and appended to his report the scoping document previously approved by the Board. The Director sought the views of the Board as to whether the review should remain as part of the work programme for the new municipal year.</p>	

Report 3

PROPOSED OUTLINE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD START OF MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/2011

Meeting Date	Topic Description
	▪
	▪

Report 4

PROGRESS REPORT ON IN-DEPTH PANEL REVIEWS FOR SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD START OF MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/2011

Title of Review	Members of Panel	Progress to Date	Date Due to report back
<p><u>Alcohol Scrutiny Review</u></p>	<p>Councillor Ann Bridson Councillor Chris Meaden Councillor Sue Taylor Councillor Dave Mitchell</p>	<p>Further to minute 17 (14 September 2009) and minute 33 (14 January 2010), members of the Alcohol Scrutiny Panel presented an update on progress for the Alcohol Scrutiny Review. The central focus of the review was the “access to alcohol by young people in Wirral” and the issues which would be focused upon were contained within a scoping document appended to the report. Evidence had been gathered from meetings with officers of Wirral NHS, Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), Children and Young People, Licensing, Trading Standards and Merseyside Police. The Panel members proposed to continue with further evidence gathering, in particular focusing on the education of children (regarding alcohol) and the investigation of progress of initiatives at statistical and geographical neighbours. Members of the Panel indicated that young people would also be interviewed during the course of the review and it was proposed that this would be achieved with input from the Youth Parliament and the Youth Outreach Team.</p> <p><u>(1) That the Alcohol Scrutiny Review remain as part of the work programme for the new municipal year.</u></p> <p>(2) That with the continued input and support from Mr A Veitch (Scrutiny Officer aligned to the Liberal Democrat Group), the following Members be re-appointed to serve on the Alcohol Scrutiny Panel in 2010/2011</p>	<p>It was planned that the final report for the Alcohol Scrutiny Review would be completed by the current panel members in due course</p>

<p><u>'One Council' Scrutiny Review</u></p>		<p>Further to minute 44 (4 March 2010), the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management provided an update upon progress of the 'One Council' Scrutiny Review. He outlined the objective of the review and appended to his report the scoping document previously approved by the Board. The Director sought the views of the Board as to whether the review should remain as part of the work programme for the new municipal year.</p> <p><u>Resolved – That no further work be undertaken in relation to the 'One Council' Scrutiny Review at the present time.</u></p>	
<p>That the impact on partnerships of any savings that may be required in relation to specific grants, form the basis of a scrutiny review as more information is known.</p>	<p>tba</p>		