

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD - 4 MARCH 2010

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LAW, HR AND ASSET MANAGEMENT

WIRRAL COUNCIL MEMBERS' ANNUAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY QUESTIONNAIRE – APRIL 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To seek approval from the Scrutiny Programme Board to the second annual Members' Overview and Scrutiny Survey.

2. Background

- 2.1 An annual survey was carried out last year as part of a framework to gauge perceptions about Overview and Scrutiny and draw together issues that can be used to influence its future direction. The findings of each year's survey forms the basis of a report to the Scrutiny Programme Board. The results of this survey will be compared to the previous year and any emerging trends will be reported to the Board.
- 2.2 The aim of the questionnaire is to assess perceptions about the effectiveness, added value and achievements of Overview and Scrutiny, and identify where improvements can be made. It is proposed that the questionnaire be also sent to Co-opted members and Directors who have had areas of their service scrutinised. A copy of the Overview and Scrutiny questionnaire is attached as Appendix A.
- 2.3 The questionnaires will be sent out following approval by the Scrutiny Programme Board, and the results of the response analysis will be brought before the Board in due course. They will be used in the continuous improvement of the scrutiny process.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That the Scrutiny Programme Board be requested to approve the Annual Overview and Scrutiny Survey 2010 and consider a report and analysis of the findings in due course.

APPENDIX A

WIRRAL COUNCIL MEMBERS' ANNUAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY QUESTIONNAIRE

This is the second annual survey evaluating the effectiveness of Overview and Scrutiny, and how it can be improved. This questionnaire is being circulated to all Members of the Council for completion as well as Co-opted Members and Directors who have had areas of their service scrutinised during 2009/10.

The aim of the questionnaire is to assess perceptions about the effectiveness, added value and achievements of Overview and Scrutiny, and identify where improvements can be made. The feedback you provide on how you feel about Overview and Scrutiny is very important to me.

I can only improve the quality of Overview and Scrutiny activity and how effectively work is carried out by listening to your experiences. I will use the information you give me to identify practical ways in which improvements can be made. The results for this survey will be carefully analysed and presented to the Scrutiny Programme Board in due course.

Please send your completed questionnaire to:

Shirley Hudspeth
Democratic Services Manager
Town Hall
Brighton Street
Wallasey
Wirral
CH44 8ED

WIRRAL COUNCIL MEMBERS' ANNUAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY QUESTIONNAIRE

Please print name:.....

{The questionnaire can be completed anonymously if you wish.}

1. Please tick which Committee(s) you sit on:

- Scrutiny Programme Board
- Children and Young People
- Council Excellence
- Economy and Regeneration
- Health and Well Being
- Sustainable Communities
- None of the above

1a. Are you an:

- Elected Member
- Cabinet Member
- Co-opted Member
- Director

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

.....

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

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

3. Are you happy with the Scrutiny Officer support available to the Committees or would you like to see any improvements?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

4. Scrutiny Programme Board

Scrutiny Programme Board Members are requested to answer 3a. only and non Scrutiny Programme Board Members are requested to answer 3b and c.

4a. If you are 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?

.....
.....
.....

4b. If you are not a member of the Scrutiny Programme Board do you consider that you know enough about its role and its work programme.

Yes No

4c. If you consider you don't know enough about the Scrutiny Programme Board's role and its work programme, what more information would you like to receive?

.....
.....
.....
.....

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

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

Unsuccessful Successful Very Successful

7. 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?

Very unsatisfied Unsatisfied Satisfied Very Satisfied

7a. Does the Forward Plan assist Overview and Scrutiny Committees to hold the Executive to account?

Yes No Don't Know

7b. 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.

.....
.....
.....

8. 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?

Please circle your choice

Very unsatisfied

Unsatisfied

Satisfied

Very Satisfied

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

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

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

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

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

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Additional Comments:

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.