
Effective Organisation Overview & Scrutiny Committee

30 September 2009

Report of the Democratic Services Manager

Update Report On Issues Raised At Last Meeting & Response To Previous Referrals Made By This Committee

Summary

1. This report provides Members with update information on issues arising at their last meeting in June 2009 and provides feedback from SMC on the referrals made at that time by this Committee.

Background

2. At the first meeting of this Committee in June 2009, Members received a number of reports, some of which raised issues requiring clarification i.e. the update report on the Single Improvement Plan (SIP) for 2009/10, the Year-end Performance & Financial Monitoring Report for 2008/09 and the Corporate Strategy – Relevant Key Performance Indicators & Actions Report.
3. Members requested that the scrutiny officer seek clarification on which of the workstreams identified within the SIP report are to be looked at by the Audit & Governance Committee, in order to prevent any duplication of that work by this committee.
4. In considering the year-end monitoring report, the Committee identified a number of possible topics suitable for scrutiny review and agreed that specific members would submit these topics to the scrutiny officer to enable work to commence on the associated feasibility reports.
5. The Committee also referred a number of issues identified within the year-end monitoring report to Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC), in order to seek clarification on which were the appropriate Overview & Scrutiny Committees to look at the issues in more detail i.e. the underlying budget issues in Children's Services and Housing and Adult Social Services (HASS), the underachievement of income for Newgate Market and the issues surrounding graffiti and litter. This Committee requested feedback on their referrals at this meeting in order that any relevant additions to and/or changes required to their annual workplan could be made.

6. In regard to the list of performance indicators shown at Annex A to the Corporate Strategy – Relevant Key Performance Indicators & Actions report, The intention of providing a definitive list of performance indicators relevant to each of the new Overview & Scrutiny Committees terms of reference was to give each Committee a fuller understanding of the areas potentially covered by their remit. Members recognised that those shown as relevant to this Committee, were incorrect.

Consultation

7. Report on Single Improvement Plan Refresh 2009/10
The Assistant Director of Customer Service & Governance has clarified that the Audit & Governance Committee will not be looking at the following workstreams identified within the SIP Refresh 2009/10 report dated 26 May 2009:
 - Member Training
 - Internal Communications
 - Risk Management
8. Extracts from the SIP Refresh 2009/10 report detailing the above workstreams is shown at Annex A.
9. In regard to those workstreams being monitored by the Audit & Governance Committee, an update report was presented to the Executive on 21 July 2009, containing detailed actions plans for these, and the Audit & Governance Committee will be receiving an update report on progress made, in December 2009.
10. Year-end Performance & Financial Monitoring Report
At their meeting on 27 July 2009, SMC noted that the information within the complete year-end monitoring report originally considered by this committee, had subsequently been separated into smaller reports for the other overview & scrutiny committee. SMC therefore recognised that the issues referred to them had already be presented for consideration to the relevant O & S committees. SMC acknowledged that it was up to each of those committees to decide for themselves whether they wished to proceed to a scrutiny review of any of the issues identified within the reports. For clarity however, SMC identified that:
 - the budget pressures in Children’s Services and HASS should have been a matter of consideration for the Learning and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee respectively;
 - the underachievement of income for Newgate Market should have been a matter of consideration for the Economic and City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
 - the concerns regarding graffiti and litter should have been a matter of consideration for the Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
11. SMC agreed that the issue of graffiti and litter would be suitable for scrutiny review, and therefore requested that it be referred back to them if the Community Safety O&S Committee decided not to request a feasibility report on the topic. At the first meeting of the Community Safety O&S committee, it was agreed not to

make any decisions about possible topics for review until their next meeting on 22 September, in order to allow themselves sufficient time to absorb all of the information presented at their first meeting. The issue of graffiti and litter will be raised by the scrutiny officer responsible for Community Safety O&S Committee when that Committee considers additions to their annual workplan at their next meeting.

12. Corporate Strategy – Relevant Key Performance Indicators & Actions Report
Currently, information on performance indicators is being provided on an exception basis as part of the quarterly monitoring reports. Work is ongoing to establish whether a corporate approach to providing update reports to the Overview & Scrutiny Committees on all national performance indicators is required.
13. Annual Workplan
For information, a copy of this Committee's annual workplan is shown at Annex B and an extract from the current Executive Forward Plan (showing all the entries relevant to the remit of this committee), is shown at Annex C.

Options

14. In regard to the workstreams identified with the SIP report, the Committee may choose to carry out one or more scrutiny reviews based on any of those workstreams which are not going to be looked at by Audit & Governance (as identified in paragraph 7 above), and timetable those reviews into their annual workplan - see Annex C.
15. In regard to the issues previously referred to SMC by this Committee, Members may choose to accept the advice of SMC in regard to which O&S committee remit they best fit and therefore agree not to pursue them further.

Corporate Strategy

15. Each of the new overview & scrutiny committees is based on a individual theme of the Local Area Agreement in line with the recently revised Corporate Strategy. It is important that each committee works within its own remit, therefore SMC has been given responsibility for correctly allocating any topic which has the potential to fit more than one committee's remit. The remit for this committee is to make recommendations which will result in improvements in the council's effectiveness, its ability to be modern with high standards and values, and to be a great place to work.

Implications

16. There are no known Financial, Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, Crime and Disorder, IT, Property or other implications associated with the recommendations in this report

Risk Management

17. There are no known risks associated with the recommendations in the update report.

Recommendations

18. Members are asked to note the information in this report and take it into consideration when agreeing any changes to the Committee's workplan.

Reason: To ensure a robust and relevant workplan is agreed for this municipal year.

Contact Details

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Report Approved



Date

17 September 2009

Specialist Implications Officer(s) N/A

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Executive Report on Single Improvement Plan Refresh dated 26 May 2009
Year-end Performance & Financial Report for 2008/09 dated 30 June 2009
Corporate Strategy – Relevant Key Performance Indicators & Actions Report dated 30 June 2009

Annexes

Annex A - Updated information on those SIP workstreams not being considered by Audit & Governance Committee

Annex B - Annual Workplan

Annex C - Extract from current Executive Forward Plan