

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board was held on 25 April 2006.

PRESENT: Councillor Carr (Chair), Councillors Booth, McTigue, Rogers, Rooney and T Ward.

OFFICIALS: J Bennington, G Brown, P Clark, A Crawford, J Ord, K E Robinson and E Williamson.

**** APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dryden, Mawston and Wilson.

**** DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at this point of the meeting.

**** MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 29 March 2006 were submitted and approved.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2006-7 – SCRUTINY PANEL RESPONSES

In a report of the Senior Scrutiny Officer the Board was advised of the views expressed by each Scrutiny Panel following their consideration of the relevant sections of the Council's Strategic Plan relating to 2006/07.

Although the Community Safety and Leisure Scrutiny Panel had not suggested any areas for amendment or inclusion they had identified issues within Action 2 of the service proposals they wanted to bring forth for further consideration when establishing their work programme for 2006/07.

The Social Care and Adult Services; the Children and Learning; and the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panels had expressed support for the planned actions that had been identified to address strategic priorities.

The Health Scrutiny Panel supported the contents of the 'Healthier Communities for All' section, but had expressed the view that there were two specific subject areas that were not sufficiently represented. Firstly, the Panel felt that there was not sufficient coverage given to child health and specific concerns around the promotion of good physical and mental health for children. Secondly, the Panel noted that there was no mention of the health of the BME community and specific areas of concern such as an increased risk of certain conditions such as diabetes and heart disease.

The Environment Scrutiny Panel considered the relevant sections and in terms of open spaces, the Panel had referred to the problem of vehicle damage to grass verges. It had been agreed that this issue should be highlighted for future consideration.

NOTED

STRATEGIC PLAN 2006/2007 TO 2008/2009

Further to the meeting of the Board held on 28 February 2006 the Corporate Performance Manager submitted a report on the proposed content of the Strategic Plan.

In response to the feedback from the various Scrutiny Panels the following action had been taken: -

-
- a) 3 additional BME focussed actions had been included within the 'promoting healthier communities and effective social care for adults' theme;
 - b) health actions relating specifically to children had been included within the 'supporting children and learning' theme;
 - c) an additional action to complete the Parking Strategy had been included within the 'meeting local transport needs more efficiently' theme;
 - d) all suggested minor amendments to wording had been incorporated.

An indication was given of further consultation to be undertaken and the next steps of the process in finalising the Strategic Plan. An assurance was given that the Board would be notified of any major changes.

Members sought clarification on a number of areas for which the Corporate Performance Manager agreed to ensure that appropriate action had been taken in respect of the following: -

Part 1:

- i) use of plain English specifically avoiding the use of the word 'thematic' in respect of Action Groups;
- ii) ensure that the statistical references within the section headed 'Mayor's Reduction Agenda' was supported by appropriate research;

Part 11:

- iii) reference was made to the overall process involving performance clinics and reporting mechanisms including reports to the Board which would identify those areas of significant variation where a target had not been achieved;

Part 111:

- iv) it was anticipated that there would be no major variations in respect of the BVPI results expected at the end of April.

NOTED AND APPROVED

EXECUTIVE FEEDBACK – RECYCLING – PRIMARY EDUCATION REVIEWS – ACUTE SERVICES REVIEW

As part of the scrutiny process and in a report of the Executive Manager it was reported that the Executive had considered the Board's findings on the Final Reports in relation to Recycling, Primary Education Reviews and also the findings of the Joint Section 7 Consultation Committee on the Acute Services Review.

The Executive had considered and supported the responses of the Service Area and the Corporate Management Team and had also agreed the proposed Action Plans.

NOTED

SCRUTINY REVIEWS - CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS

It was confirmed that no requests for scrutiny reviews had been received from the Executive, Executive Members, Non Executive Members and members of the public since the last meeting of the Board.

The Chair encouraged Members to respond to a letter which had recently been circulated to all Members of the Council asking to put forward suggestions for scrutiny topics of investigation for possible inclusion in the 2006/2007 Scrutiny Work Programme.

NOTED

SCRUTINY PANELS - PROGRESS REPORTS

A report of the Chair of each Scrutiny Panel was submitted which outlined progress on current activities.

NOTED

CALL IN REQUESTS

It was confirmed that no requests had been received to call-in a decision.