

## **WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **BUDGET & PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY TASK GROUP**

**09 February 2010**

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#### **SCRUTINY RESTRUCTURE – TASK GROUP ABOLITION**

##### **Background**

1. The members of the Task Group will know that over the past few months the parent Select Committee has been considering the need for an over-arching management and co-ordination body for the overview and scrutiny function in the new Council following representation from a number of its members.
2. A second report was taken to committee on 21 January when it was decided to establish a liaison board to fulfil this important role with immediate effect. The Liaison Board would operate informally in the first instance giving direction and advice in respect of the management of the overview and scrutiny function including providing consistency of approach and future development, and would review the work programmes of the select committees to ensure alignment with Council priorities and best use of councillor capacity and officer support.
3. The existing chairmen and vice-chairmen of the 4 select committees will form the membership of the Liaison Board enabling them to give guidance and direction to their respective committees.

##### **Implications for future scrutiny of budget and performance matters**

4. A number of consequential minor changes were proposed including the abolition of the Budget and Performance Task Group. This was agreed on the basis that the “management” element of the Management and Resources Select Committee would fall to the new Liaison Board and therefore it seemed unnecessary to maintain budget and performance (and risk) scrutiny separate from a Resources only Select Committee.
5. It also ensured that officer support would not be spread too thinly. A diagram showing these changes is attached for ease of reference.
6. On that basis, today’s meeting of the Task Group will be its last with any outstanding matters to be picked up at the next meeting of the Resources Select Committee on 25 March.

## **Fact Finding**

7. The service-based budget monitoring fact-finding meetings have been generally regarded as a success and therefore should continue under the control of the Resources Select Committee. It is also suggested that the chairman and vice-chairman of the respective select committees should continue to lead at the relevant fact finding meetings and report to the Resources Select Committee via written officer report. However the Task Group may wish to express a view on this particular suggestion.

## **Recommendation**

8. The Task Group is asked to note the parent Select Committee's decision and the implications for future scrutiny of budget and performance matters.

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