

**KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S GROUP**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD - 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2005**

**Report Number C/10/05  
Training – Overview & Scrutiny**

**Report by Karen Cook, Policy Support Manager**

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**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 To agree a training programme for Overview & Scrutiny.

**2.0 Financial, Staffing & Legal Implications**

2.1 There are no potential legal implications arising out of this report. There are potential staffing and financial implications which will be met out of existing resources.

**3.0 Background**

3.1 The Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Management Board had previously requested additional training for Overview & Scrutiny members to develop a greater understanding of their role. This would build on the training already undertaken and also respond to many of the comments in the Comprehensive Performance Assessment report which highlighted improvements in areas such as scrutiny, performance monitoring and learning.

3.2 Since May 2003 the following specific training has been made available to members relating to the work of overview and scrutiny.

- CPA and performance measuring and monitoring.
- The work of Overview & Scrutiny and the workplan.
- Visit to Wiltshire County Council to see scrutiny in action.
- A practical approach to Overview & Scrutiny.
- Overview & Scrutiny regional conference attended by the Chair.
- Corporate, community planning and performance monitoring – Policy Team.

**4.0 Proposed programme**

4.1 The Policy Support Manager has identified a number of areas and has developed a proposed programme for members to consider.

- Two half day training sessions on the role of Overview & Scrutiny. Note these days have been provisionally booked for

the afternoons of the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2005 and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2005.

- A visit to a fourth option authority – Tewkesbury District Council (2005).
- A half day workshop on developing SMART targets by the audit commission (2005), to develop the scrutiny role of performance management monitoring.
- A visit to a best practise authority, as identified by the audit commission (2006).
- A workshop developing the function against the self evaluation framework for overview and scrutiny in local government (2006). This would build on previous work.

## **5.0 Other training**

- 5.1 There is a Member Training and Development Focus Group that has in the past sent questionnaires out to all Members on training requirements. The last time a questionnaire was circulated very little feedback was received.
- 5.2 Members are encouraged to make other requests specific to Overview and Scrutiny training. It is suggested that this should be through the Member Training and Development Focus Group, so that a formal programme can be built into the Member Development Strategy and it becomes part of the Council's work programme.

## **6.0 Recommendations:-**

- 6.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agree to the suggested programme and the Policy Support Manager arranges the training in consultation with the Chair of the Board.

KDC  
June 2005