

**JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TRANSITION BOARD**  
**27 FEBRUARY 2009**

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS IN THE NEW COUNCIL –**  
**CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

**Purpose**

1. To report on the outcome of the consultation and the next steps in finalising the arrangements in time for the new Council.

**Background**

2. JOSTB approved the O&S arrangements for consultation set out in the report of the Consultant and WCC Scrutiny Manager at its meeting on 19 December. These were supported in principle by the IE on 13 January and discussed again by the Board at the last meeting (see Appendix A – structure chart summary).
3. The proposed arrangements were circulated under cover of an e-mail from the Chairman to chief executives and members of all five councils and corporate and service directors appointed to the new council with a closing date for responses by 2 February (see Appendix B).

**Responses**

4. Appendix C sets out the replies received and the proposed action to be taken in response. This has been prepared in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board.
5. Subject to the Board agreeing the action, then where necessary these will be incorporated in the final arrangements.

**Next Steps**

6. The New Council's Constitution will need to include the revised O&S Procedural Rules which will be drafted for consideration by the Board at its next meeting on 27 March.
7. JOSTB will be considering elsewhere on today's agenda a report on Executive member (and officer) attendance at O&S activities for inclusion in the O&S Procedural Rules in the Constitution mentioned above. This issue was specifically requested at the last meeting.
8. As a result of the above then a protocol (supplementary guidance to the Constitution) will be drafted on Executive/O&S working relations for future approval by both functions. The current WCC task group protocol will also be

revised along with the production of a number of advice leaflets for those who might be involved in O&S in the future.

9. Terms of reference for each of the main O&S select committees will need to be drafted for approval by the new Council in June when members will be appointed (on political proportionality grounds) to the various committees.
10. It is expected that O&S provisions in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and supporting guidance will come into force on 1 April. In the main these relate to Councillor Call for Action, Local Petitions and LAA partner scrutiny. As reported before work has been done with the pilot area boards project team to ensure an appropriate interface between local challenge by the boards and statutory O&S. A report will be prepared including briefing notes and flow charts on these requirements after implementation.
11. O&S will also feature as a main component of the member induction programme. Derek Bishop, the consultant who worked with members and officers on the O&S arrangements has agreed to support the induction. A more comprehensive member development programme will then follow which will include courses on specific skills necessary to lead and participate in O&S activities.

## **Recommendations**

12. JOSTB is asked to
  - (i) note the replies to the consultation (Appendix C);
  - (ii) agree the actions in response (Appendix C);
  - (iii) note the next steps as set out in the report; and,
  - (iv) finalise the O&S arrangements (as reported at the last meeting – summary chart at Appendix A) subject to the above for recommendation to the new Council in June.

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