

AGENDA



website: www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Meeting: OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Place: County Hall, Trowbridge
Committee Room: V
Date: Thursday 7 June 2007
Time: 10.00 am (please note earlier start time)

Please direct any enquiries on this agenda to Paul Kelly of Democratic & Members' Services, County Hall, Trowbridge, direct line (01225) 713049 or e-mail paulkelly@wiltshire.gov.uk
 All the reports referred to on this agenda are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council.htm

Members are also reminded to personally review the Council's Forward Work Plan and Cabinet minutes as part of Scrutiny's responsibilities to hold the Executive to public account. These are circulated regularly and available on the website.

Any member of the Committee or any 5 members of the Council can request an item on the agenda of the Committee using the appropriate form available on the website or from the scrutiny officers.

Briefing Arrangements:	Date	Time	Place
Chairman and Vice	5 June	10.00am	Scrutiny Room

Membership:

Mr AN Deane	Mr JB Osborn (Chairman)
Mrs ME Groom	Dr JM English
Brig. RW Hall	Mrs JH Rooke
Mr A Molland	Mr BE Dalton
Mrs P Rugg	Mr P Batchelor
Mr AJ Trotman	Mr RT Rogers
Mr R While	

PART I

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. **Membership**
2. **Apologies**
3. **Election of Vice-Chairman**
4. **Election of Chairman**
5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** To confirm and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 29 March and 16 April 2007 (copies previously circulated).
6. **Chairman's Announcements**
7. **Members' Interests** To remind members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee at the relevant time.
8. **Public Participation** The County Council welcomes contributions from members of the public. This meeting is open to members of the public who may ask a question or make a statement. Written notice of questions or statements should be given to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services by 12.00 noon on Tuesday 5 June. Anyone wishing to ask a question or make a statement should contact the officer named above. Speakers are limited to two minutes.
9. **The Orders of St. John Care Trust**
 - (1) Block Contract for Residential Care Annual Service Review 2006-07 A copy of the annual report from the Trust is circulated (*at the rear of the agenda papers*) along with a covering report by the Director of Community Services.

The Council's Corporate Procurement Strategy requires major partners and contractors to report each year on their performance. Representatives from the Trust will be at the meeting to present their report and answer questions from members.

The Management Committee is asked to consider the annual report and forward any comments and recommendations to the Cabinet Members for Community Services and ICT, Procurement and Partnerships.

(2) Review of Care Services with particular reference to The Orders of St. John Care Trust A report by the Director of Community Resources is circulated.

This was mentioned when the Committee considered the OSJ interim report last June. Scrutiny members were keen to be kept informed of progress with the development strategy.

10. **Real Time Bus Information** A report by the Director of Environmental Services is circulated.

The Committee initially called for a report on Real Time following concerns over delays identified in the Transport Service Action Plan. A report in response was considered at the last meeting at which the Committee wanted clarification as to the indicators and monitoring information used to measure the performance of the system, especially in the light of the personal observations made by individual members. A further report has now been prepared.

Representatives from the bus operators involved in the system have accepted an invitation to attend and contribute to the discussion.

The Committee is asked to consider the information in the report and discussions at the meeting and determine whether it wishes to continue its interest in this project.

11. **Voice to Choice Update** A report by the Assistant Director of Community Services will be circulated – it is currently being revised to reflect recent stakeholder views.

This item originated from the beginning of last year following Cabinet's approval to the framework and schedule of the project. The Management Committee was invited to express its views on the concept and principles for inclusion in the development of the proposals prior to implementation. In receiving an update at the March meeting last year the Management Committee asked for a further report on the pilot community area boards.

The Cabinet Member for Community Services will be in attendance to speak and answer questions.

The Committee is asked to consider the update and determine its future interest in the topic.

12. **Progress Report on the Implementation of the Corporate Procurement Strategy** A report by the Head of Procurement and Contract Management is circulated.

The Committee was involved in supporting the adoption of the CPS in 2005 and asked to be kept informed of progress with implementation on an annual basis.

The Committee is asked to consider the second year's progress report and comment as necessary to the Cabinet Member for ICT, Procurement and Partnerships.

13. **Grant Aid to Wiltshire Heritage and Salisbury Museums** A report by the Assistant Director of Corporate Services is circulated.

This follows agreement in principle to establish a Scrutiny Task Group at the last meeting and this report now deals with the proposed terms of reference and membership.

The Committee is asked to approve the recommendations in the report.

14. **Budget Scrutiny Task Group Final Report** A copy of the final report on the Council's revenue budget process for 2007-08 is circulated. This will be introduced by Tony Molland as the Task Group's Chairman.

The Management Committee is asked to endorse the conclusions and recommendations for submission to Cabinet on 26 June.

15. **Social Care Task Group Recommendations – Cabinet Member Response** The Management Committee resolved as follows in respect of the final report of the Task Group at the last meeting:

- (1) To thank the task group for their work and commitment whilst undertaking the review.
- (2) To endorse the findings and recommendations of the task group as detailed in the final report.
- (3) To alert the Cabinet Member to the delay in completing the assessment of users targeted for completion by December 2006 (Cabinet minutes October 17 2006) and to voice the Committee's concern about the uncertainty this delay has caused amongst service users, carers and staff.
- (4) To alert the Cabinet Member to the commitment that the day care services change programme for Adults with Learning Disabilities would

be completed by April 2007 (Cabinet report October 17 2006) and the concern of the Management Committee that this will slip further when considering the assessment process for users and the difficulties in finalising appropriate buildings to the existing day centres.

The recommendations of the Task Group are set out in the attached sheet for ease of reference along with the response by the Cabinet Member of Community Services in the form of a letter. The Cabinet Member will also be present at the meeting to speak to his response and answer any questions.

The Management Committee is asked to consider the response and that future reporting has been included in the Committee's work programme.

16. Scrutiny Development Issues

(1) Review of Meetings

To inform the Management Committee that Council last month approved the recommendations of the Standards Committee in respect of its review of arrangements for involvement of members in the decision-making process. As a consequence an action plan is being prepared for consideration at the next meeting of the Standards Committee on 4 July. Overview and Scrutiny has been identified as part of the solution to improve matters particularly around developing its working relationship with Cabinet, being more focused on external issues and generally being more proactive.

The Chairman of the Management Committee has insisted that Scrutiny is given the opportunity to lead on any proposed developments affecting it. This will be identified in the action plan and taken to a future meeting.

The Committee is asked to note the position.

(2) Framework for Partnerships

To inform the Management Committee that Cabinet on 22 May adopted a framework policy for the evaluation, approval and registration of partnerships in order to strengthen the Council's partnership governance arrangements. In essence it provides a framework to identify and register partnerships in one of three categories of risk, with varying requirements being applied depending on the category.

A protocol forms part of the policy and although it does not specifically provide for the involvement of Scrutiny, it acknowledges its right and the benefits of scrutinising such partnerships as it sees fit. The Management

Committee has already developed a very successful process in scrutinising major procurement exercises including non-executive appointments to project boards and annual reviews of contracts over £1m. This now forms an appendix to the Council's Corporate Procurement Strategy. With this success in mind, it is suggested that the Committee might wish to receive a copy the register or summary version relating to the highest risk/value partnerships (available from December 2007) with a view to "spot reviewing" one or more of these partnerships.

The Committee is asked to note the adoption of the Framework and ask that it receives the register or summary version at its meeting in January 2008.

(3) White Paper Proposals for O&S

To inform the Management Committee of the proposals in the Government's Local Government White Paper 2006 to strengthen overview and scrutiny contained in the chapter on effective, accountable and responsive local government.

It says that whilst being an essential part of the democratic process research shows that the perception is that although scrutiny committees are good at reviewing service outcomes and involving external stakeholders, they are weak at reconciling community opinion or providing a forum for community debate. The Government intends to legislate to strengthen this role as part of "place-shaping" responsibilities of local authorities and will include a requirement to consider issues raised by members as "Community Calls for Action". Following publication of the White Paper, Government has been working with local authorities to develop new best practice guidance on the concept of scrutiny focused on particular areas, communities or neighbourhoods.

At the same time, Government will encourage local authorities to focus overview and scrutiny on more strategic issues – the priorities agreed as part of Sustainable Community Strategies, Local Area Agreements and other key strategic plans. Greater use of overview and scrutiny in policy development is also proposed.

In support of these developments Government intends to encourage all councils to dedicate appropriate resources to scrutiny in recognition that the key to successful scrutiny is adequate resourcing and support. A full regulatory impact assessment accompanies the White Paper in which it recognises that an enhanced role for overview and scrutiny is likely to require a greater number and range of reviews and inquiries. This will in turn require more officer support to be given to committees to assist in the analysis of evidence and the preparation of reports. Government has

calculated that extra costs are likely of £25m per annum nationally based on a 50% expansion of current activity.

In Wiltshire although we have tried to have a broad work programme to include some elements of local and strategic scrutiny, the reality is that little capacity exists both at member and officer level to do very much in these areas. One Council for Wiltshire (1C4W) - also arising from opportunities under the White Paper, may provide the extra resources and capacity to develop the work of scrutiny in these areas. However, whatever happens on this front, the Government will expect to see evidence of an enhanced role for overview and scrutiny in the future.

At this stage, the Management Committee is asked to simply be aware of these intentions and, once the outcome of the bid for 1C4W is determined and Government has issued direction and guidance, a further report will be made for scrutiny members to engage with the local development of this enhanced role.

17. **Work Programme** A copy of the latest version of the Management Committee's work programme is circulated. The Committee is asked to consider its current work programme and agree any alterations it wishes to make, bearing in mind any decisions taken earlier in the meeting.

For information the following scrutiny activities under the direction of the Management Committee are taking place:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Start date</u>	<u>Next Meeting</u>	<u>End Date</u>
Task Groups	Performance	Mr Newbury (Ch) Mr Osborn Mrs Soden Mrs Taylor Mr While	Nov 02	20 June	Standing
	Budget	Mr Molland (Ch) Brig Hall Mr Coleman Mr Rogers Mr Moss Mr Osborn	Sept 01	21 June	Standing
	Customer First	Mr Deane (Ch) Ms Content Mr Dalton Mr A Davis Mr Newbury Mrs Rugg	June 05	13 July	Standing
	Street Management	Mr Trotman Mrs Rugg	Jan 07	8 June	Sept 07

		Mr Winchcombe Mr West Mr Henning			
Procurement Project Boards	Property Services	Mr Henning	Sept 05	-	Ongoing
	Adult Care	Mrs Hill and Dr English	Jan 06	-	Ongoing
	Business Management Programme	Mr Deane	Feb 06	-	Dec 07

18. **Urgent Items**

PART II

Items during whose consideration it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed

None