

ADDENDUM

Wiltshire County Council

Agenda Item No. 11

**Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
1 November 2007**

Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements for One Council Transition - Paper for Consultation

1. To provide an update on further thinking since the issue of the report for consultation on 2 October.
2. Scrutiny officers from 4 of the 5 councils met again on 19 October to explore the content of the proposals and report on respective initial views, subject to more formal responses in time for 1 November. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee gave consideration to these views at a pre-agenda briefing on 22 October.
3. A potential difficulty to reaching agreement on a way forward was the status of the proposed task group. A semi-autonomous board or commission with each of the 5 authorities appointing representatives was identified as a more favoured approach. It would retain the same broad responsibilities but would report back as appropriate to each of the councils' scrutiny functions rather than through the Management Committee.
4. This board or commission would either retain a constitution of 5 county councillors and 4 district councillors for the reasons described in the report or, as favoured by some districts, with a reduced county council representation of 4. In either event the combined membership is likely to have a mix of administration, opposition, single and dual-council members.
5. Allowing the board or commission to elect its own chairman was seen as a strength, as was joint scrutiny officer support to the arrangements.
6. It was recognised that a series of task groups based around the work streams, and smaller groups of members and individual appointments at project level under the direction of the board/commission was important in order to provide the opportunities for members to engage in key areas of the transition.
7. As a consequence an updated diagram is attached (as a possible replacement to appendix c of the report).

8. Further work will be required on the operating arrangements of these proposals with the involvement of the members appointed to the board/commission but it is hoped that broad agreement could be reached at this stage.
9. The Management Committee is now asked to consider the consultation report in the light of this addendum and any formal views received from districts.