

Extract from Council Report – 21 September 2007

Scrutiny

26. Importantly the Cabinet recognise that it will be imperative to establish, alongside the Transition Cabinet, energetic and effective scrutiny arrangements.
27. In respect of the Overview and Scrutiny arrangements for transition, an early view has been taken by the Management Committee at its meeting on 6 September, subject to the outcome of Council, and discussed informally with scrutiny officers from the district councils. This proposes a high-profile task group of the County's Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee operating at the Transition Cabinet level comprising leading scrutiny members from the County and a co-opted member from each of the districts.
28. The intention would be to feed into the process prior to Transition Cabinet decisions providing a voice for non-executive members in helping to shape the new Council, as well as holding the Transition Cabinet to public account for its actions. The Task Group would co-ordinate work by small groups and individual members appointed to review specific topics of interest/risk within the 4 work streams along the lines successfully employed for major procurement exercises, corporate recovery, and budget scrutiny "fact-finding" meetings. It is also hoped that relevant district council scrutiny activities, such as the recently agreed North Wilts review of One Council, can feed into the Task Group (through their representatives) so that valuable local knowledge can be harnessed and duplication avoided where possible. If supported then this would open up capacity to include non-executive members and scrutiny resources from all the five councils.
29. Depending on the outcome of Council, a paper will be prepared for the Management Committee at its next meeting on 1 November, for consultation with the districts, describing these proposed arrangements in more detail.