

TOWARDS ONE COUNCIL

JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY TRANSITION BOARD 19 DECEMBER 2008

DEVELOPING ARRANGEMENTS FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FOR THE NEW WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Executive Summary

1. This paper covers two reports on proposed overview and scrutiny arrangements for the new council. The first report set out at Agenda Item No. 14 (1) very much sets the national context and identifies the key issues requiring consideration whilst the second report set out at Agenda Item No. 14 (2) offers a draft structure with commentary for consultation.
2. The first is the final report of Derek Bishop, Local Government Consultant commissioned by JOSTB in May, to which members have been updated periodically on progress. The report sets out the current legislative framework, future legislative changes, nationally recognised roles and models applied by other authorities including those of the current 5 councils in Wiltshire.
3. It also offers an evaluation framework based on the Centre for Public Scrutiny's 4 principles of good scrutiny and identifies the important issues that JOSTB needs to consider in developing appropriate arrangements for the new council.
4. The second has been written by officers which applies the work of the consultant to the local circumstances. It sets out a draft structure with commentary for consultation. It is based on what currently works well, including the experiences gained during transitional scrutiny, and the available resources. It also advocates the value of operating a challenging but constructive style and approach for effective scrutiny on behalf of non-executive members and the communities and public they represent.

Matters for Consideration

5. To consider the consultant's report and in particular the future legislative changes in paragraphs 5-8 and the good practice elements in paragraph 22.
6. To consider the draft arrangements and proposed structure described in the officers report including how these respond to the two issues above.
7. Subject to the above consideration, to endorse the draft arrangements for consultation as proposed in paragraph 32 and to note the further work required in paragraph 33 of the officers report.

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