

Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Capacity/Achievement Sub-Group

Monday, 26 February 2007

Present: Councillor Dennis Edgerley (Chair), Councillors Francis Culshaw and Mrs Marie Gray

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Harold Heaton.

2. DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

No Member declared any interests in relation to matters under consideration at the meeting.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Capacity/Achievement Sub-Group held on 31 January 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS (SWOT) ANALYSIS

The Sub-Group was requested to determine the solutions and actions to improve the areas that came out of the SWOT analysis undertaken at the last meeting of the Sub-Group (Minute reference 5 (31 January 2007)).

The Sub-Group established the following solution and actions:

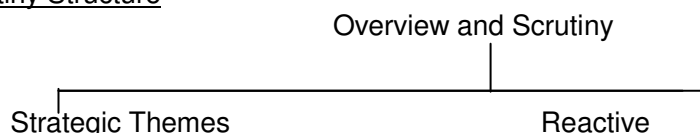
Opportunities

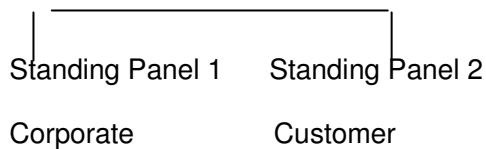
What would Members like Scrutiny to do – Get more involvement for Members. Review of the BVPI's and where they should go. Review the programme of information provided by the PI's.

Actions

- Review the performance information presented to Scrutiny.
- Review the presentation of performance information – including whether high is good or bad.
- Budget Scrutiny to be standard practice.
- Develop scrutiny of link between budget and service delivery – including Value for Money (VFM) reviews.
- Use Community Fora/Parish Council Liaison to identify scrutiny issues – also Parish Councils to submit issues.
- Identify key areas delivered by outside bodies that Council would wish to scrutinise.
- Develop a system to trial “call for action”

Scrutiny Structure





Community "Call for Action"
Liaison Panels x 3

Rethink Role of Full Council

Action

- Review of the Council Procedure Rules
- Use of complaints/comments to drive improvement
- Consider what we use Council for

Engagement between Executive Cabinet and Scrutiny

Action

- Call-in procedures – what are they for, what can you do
- Executive Member decisions to all Members
- Review of the Scrutiny Toolkit is needed and what should be in it
- Use of Borough News for engagement with the public
- Use of Forward Plan - Panels

5. THE WAY FORWARD

The Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services informed the Sub-Group on the need to provide a document on the ways that the scrutiny function of the Council could be enhanced.

On the ideas already developed by the Sub-Group it was now necessary to obtain the views of Members on these ideas before any final recommendations are prepared.

A paper would be sent to all Members asking them to respond to the following topics:

- Performance Information
- Budget Scrutiny
- Call-in procedure
- The Scrutiny Toolkit
- Scrutiny and Full Council
- A revised structure for Scrutiny

Chair