

## SCRUTINY ACTIVITY REPORT

**Report By: Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Democratic**

### Wards Affected

County-wide

### Purpose

1. To consider the work being undertaken by the Scrutiny Committees.

### Financial Implications

2. None

### Background

3. This report summarises the matters considered by the Scrutiny Committees since the last report by this Committee to Council. It is intended to help keep Council aware of the work being undertaken.
4. The work of the Committees is analysed below in accordance with the following two roles for scrutiny based on a University of Birmingham categorisation.

<b>Holding the Executive to Account</b>	<b>Developing Policy</b>
Questioning members of the Executive	Pre-Decision Scrutiny – commenting on decisions about to be made
Call-ins – Scrutinising decisions before they take effect	Policy Reviews and Development
Scrutinising decisions after they are made	External Scrutiny
Management of Performance	Health Scrutiny
Ensuring Corporate Priorities are Met	
Budget Scrutiny	
Community and Area Scrutiny	

5. The business considered by the Scrutiny Committees is set out below. Each Committee has also considered and rolled forward its work programme.

---

Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Tim Brown, Committee Manager (Scrutiny) on 01432 260239

	<b>Holding the Executive to Account</b>	<b>Developing Policy</b>
<p><b>Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing</b></p> <p>24 July 2008</p>	<p>Presentation by Cabinet Member (Environment and Strategic Housing)</p> <p>Revenue Budget Outturn 2007/08 and the Budget 2008/09</p> <p>Adult Social Services Performance Monitoring</p> <p>Strategic Housing Performance Monitoring</p> <p>Strategic Housing Service Plan</p> <p>Contract Monitoring Arrangements with Shaw Healthcare</p>	<p>Strategic Review of Provider Services</p> <p>Scrutiny Review of the modernisation of day opportunities for older people</p> <p>Scrutiny Review of Transition from leaving Care to Adult Life</p> <p>Scoping Statement for a Review of Support to Carers.</p>
<p><b>Children's Services</b></p> <p>7 July 2008</p>	<p>Presentation by Cabinet Member.</p> <p>Review of Directorate and Service Plan / Performance Monitoring.</p> <p>Youth Service Update: Targeted Youth Support and Positive Activities.</p> <p>Capital Budget Outturn Report 2007/08.</p> <p>Revenue Final Outturn Report 2007/08.</p> <p>Racist Bullying "MeWe" Video.</p>	<p>Review of Behaviour and Discipline Management in Herefordshire Schools.</p>
<p><b>Community Services</b></p> <p>17 July 2008</p>	<p>Presentation by Cabinet Member</p> <p>Directorate and Service Plans</p> <p>Revenue Budget outturn and the Budget 2008/09</p> <p>Environment and Cultural Services performance Indicators</p>	<p>Scrutiny Review of the Findings of the Scrutiny Review of the Agreement with Halo Leisure Trust</p> <p>Scoping Statement for Scrutiny Review of the Community And Safety Drugs Partnership.</p> <p>Scoping Statement for Scrutiny Review of</p>

Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Tim Brown, Committee Manager (Scrutiny) on 01432 260239

	Scrutiny Review Action Plans Monitoring Broadband Provision	Herefordshire's Future Economic Policy
<b>Environment</b> 9 June 2008	Cabinet Member Presentations Reports by Directors Review of the Service Delivery Partnership Capital Budget Monitoring. Revenue Budget Monitoring Performance Monitoring.	Scrutiny Review of Planning Services.
<b>Health</b> 18 June 2008		Public Health Issues – Stroke Services Public Health Issues – Sexual Health West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust – Response Times GP-Lead Walk-in Health Centre Development Cancer Services Intermediate Care Services Changes in the Management of Mental Health Services Audiology Services

Issues of particular note:

- **Environment**

6. On scrutinising the Capital Budget outturn the Committee expressed regret concerning the continual underspend on sustainable transport budgets, particularly cycling initiatives, as opposed to overspends on car management and road building. The Committee have requested that all officers delivering the Local Transport Plan should make every effort to ensure that budgets for sustainable modes of transport will be fully committed in 2008/09.
7. The Committee considered and agreed the terms of reference for a Scrutiny Review of Planning Services and agreed the membership of the Review Group.

- **Children's Services**

---

Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Tim Brown, Committee Manager (Scrutiny) on 01432 260239

8. While discussing the Committee work programme the Chairman proposed that the Committee consider appointing each of the Councillors on the Committee as either a Champion or Vice-Champion for one of each of the five outcome areas of the Every Child Matters agenda (Be Healthy; Stay Safe; Enjoy and Achieve; Make a Positive Contribution and Achieve Economic Well-being.) Champions and Vice-Champions would be encouraged to take a more proactive role by shadowing and observing appropriate meetings to enable them to hear first hand some of the issues that have to be addressed. The involvement of the Champions would be governed by terms of reference.
  
9. The Committee agreed the proposal and **RECOMMENDED** that Strategic Monitoring Committee consider the proposal when it considers a report on the future structure of scrutiny arrangements.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None