

SCRUTINY ACTIVITY REPORT

Report By: Director of Corporate and Customer Services

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.

Holding the Executive to Account	Developing Policy
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 Scrutiny 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

Scrutiny Committee	Holding the Executive to Account	Developing Policy
Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing	Presentation by Cabinet Member (Social Care Adults and Health) Revenue Budget 2007/08 Performance monitoring Learning Disability Action Plan Executive Response to Recommendations on Homelessness	Review of Transition from Leaving Care to Adult Life (Joint with Children's Services) Presentation by Registered Social Landlords Adult Social Care Fairer Charging Review of the Modernisation of Day Opportunities for older people. Review of Herefordshire Home Point Housing Allocations Policy
Children's Services 25 September 2007 5 October 2007	Call-in of Cabinet Decision on WyeBridge Sports College: Academy Project Annual Performance Assessment Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2007/08 Revenue Budget monitoring Report 2007/08 Performance Digest Executive Response to Review of Behaviour and Discipline management in Herefordshire Schools	Review of Transition (see above) Principles on Future Provision of School Places
Community Services 8 October 2007	Presentation By Cabinet Member – Economic Development and Community Services Action plans in response to the Cultural Services inspection, Hereford City Partnership and the 18-35 Review Revenue Budget 2007/08 Performance Monitoring	Review of Agreement with HALO Leisure Trust Review of Tourism with specific reference to Tourist Information Centres Ledbury Tourist Information Centre

Scrutiny Committee	Holding the Executive to Account	Developing Policy
Environment 24 September 2007	Call-In Of Cabinet Decision On Rotherwas Archaeology: Options For The Preservation Of The Ribbon And Completion Of The Rotherwas Access Road	Review of Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire Review of Travellers Policy
Health 14 August 2007 20 September 2007		Review of Multi-organisation patient pathways (focusing on elderly patients having unscheduled medical emergencies) Public Service Trust for Herefordshire West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust – Foundation Trust Status Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust – Foundation Trust Status Reconfiguration of mental health Services Changes in the Management of mental Health Services Development of Local Involvement Network

6. Issues of particular note include:

- **Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee has received a presentation from the Cabinet Member (Social Care Adults and Health) and discussed issues with her.

The Committee has also received a presentation from one of the Registered Social Landlords in the County and intends to hear from two more at a future meeting. The invitation was originally prompted by a wish to examine maintenance policies but the Committee is analysing a range of issues to identify areas for improvement.

The Committee continues to monitor the pressure on the revenue budget and a seminar on the budget has been arranged.

- **Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee called in Cabinet's decision on WyeBridge Sports College: Academy Project. Having considered the issues the Committee has accepted Cabinet's decision.

- **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee has received a presentation from the Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Community Services) and discussed issues with him.

- **Environment Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee called-in Cabinet's decision on "Rotherwas Archaeology: Options For the Preservation Of The Ribbon And Completion Of The Rotherwas Access Road".

The Committee endorsed the decision taken by Cabinet on 6th September 2007 with regard to proceeding with option F for the completion of the Rotherwas Access Road. Whilst endorsing this decision the Committee noted that there might have been instances when information flow within the Council fell short of that normally expected. Cabinet has been recommended to set in place work to address this for the future during periods of "purdah" and immediately following elections. The Committee also congratulated the County Archaeologist on the universally acknowledged standards and quality of his work on the ribbon thus far. The Committee sincerely hoped he will be able to lead further researches either side of the present find in due course. The Committee also urged Cabinet to continue to seek funding for further research into the ribbon including a tourism scoping report when appropriate.

- **Health Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee has considered the Public Service Trust proposals making a number of recommendations to Cabinet.

The Committee has also considered and responded to the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust's proposed reconfiguration of emergency operations centres. The Committee has supported the reconfiguration in principle but has sought assurances that the service on the ground in Herefordshire will not be adversely affected and, amongst other things, has requested some reinvestment into the County of any resources realised through reorganisation. It has suggested that providing direct funding for equipment for Community First Responders would be a good place to start to seek to improve the provision of service to rural areas.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None