

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 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

	Holding the Executive to Account	Developing Policy
Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing 10 December 2007	Revenue Budget 2007/08 Performance monitoring Learning Disability Services Improvement Plan Widemarsh Workshop Update	Presentation by Registered Social Landlords Learning Disability Services – Tender for Accommodation and Support Partner
Children's Services 22 January 2008	Presentation by Cabinet Member (Children's Services) Annual Performance Assessment Arrangements for school meals provision Budget Monitoring Performance Monitoring	Review of Provision of School Places Youth Service Update Targeted Youth Support and Positive Activities
Community Services 17 December 2007	Performance Monitoring Revenue Budget Action Plans for Cultural Services Inspection: Review of Hereford City partnership; The 18-35 Review and the Review of Museums and Cultural Centres Courtyard Centre for the Arts - Action Plan	Rotherwas Futures
Environment 3 December 2007 2 January 2008	Performance Monitoring Call-in of Cabinet Decision on Colwall Railway Bridge	Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation Polytunnel Developments

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	Holding the Executive to Account	Developing Policy
Health 6 December 2007		Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Health Protection Agency Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2007 Primary Care Trust Update Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust Update Development of Local Involvement Network Review of Elderly Falls Mental Health Services

6. Issues of particular note include:

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

The Committee has received presentations from the Marches Housing Association Limited and Herefordshire Housing Limited, a presentation from Festival Housing Ltd having been made to the Committee in October 2007. These are the three Registered Social Landlords with most properties in Herefordshire. The Committee has invited Herefordshire Housing Ltd to provide a further update in six months time.

- **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee has considered an update on the Rotherwas Futures Project. It has recommended that the Cabinet Member (Economic Development and Community Services) give further consideration to: the development of a marketing strategy for attracting further businesses to Rotherwas; improving the provision of broadband facilities at the estate; ensuring that proper flood alleviation measures are put in place to protect and enhance the value of properties on the estate; the range of buildings on the estate particularly the possibility of 'flexible buildings', ensuring that companies can grow; the Council's future requirement for office space and the potential for an energy from waste site. It has asked that a report on broadband provision to the estate be made to the next meeting and a report on broadband provision to the County be included in the Committee's work programme for a future meeting.

- **Environment Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee considered the call-in of the Cabinet decision to approve expenditure to provide a temporary bailey bridge over the sub-standard bridge in Colwall carrying the B4218 if the results of an assessment report showed, on deliberation, that such a solution was the most appropriate means of opening the bridge to normal highway traffic.

The Committee agree the need for a temporary crossing. However, they strongly recommended that Cabinet: seek urgent clarification as to the legal responsibilities on both Council and owners of non Council owned bridges over which a highway runs; considers representation to the Health and Safety Executive on Network Rail's failures to adequately maintain Colwall Railway bridge; agree that the final decision on the temporary crossing is treated as a key decision; and treat the matter as urgent in view of the detrimental effect on the local community.

- **Health Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee received a presentation on the annual report of the Director of Public Health 2007 and issues arising from it. The Committee has requested further reports providing greater depth on Stroke Services and Sexual Health.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None