

## 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. Each Committee has also considered and rolled forward its work programme.

<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	

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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
<b>Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing</b> 3 October 2008	Presentation by Cabinet Member (Social Care Adults) Revenue budget monitoring Performance Monitoring Implementation of the Revised Fairer Charging Policy Integrated Social Care Record System	
<b>Children's Services</b> 29 September 2008	Call-in of Cabinet Decision on Swimming Provision for Primary Schools in Hereford City	
<b>Community Services</b> 17 October 2008	Revenue Budget Performance Monitoring	Review of the Edgar Street Grid Project
<b>Environment</b> 15 September 2008	Environment Strategy and Carbon Management Performance Performance Monitoring	Review of planning services - Update
<b>Health</b> 23 September 2008	Update from the Chief Executive of the Primary Care Trusts Update from the Chief Executive of Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust National Institute For Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) presentation Local Involvement Network	West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust – Response Times

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	Holding the Executive to Account	Developing Policy
<b>Strategic Monitoring Committee</b>  10 September 2008		Review of the Service Delivery Partnership with Amey

5. Issues of particular note include:

- **Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**

The Committee called-in Cabinet's decision on 31 July 2008 to approve the closure of St Martin's Swimming Pool with immediate effect and the subsequent capital investment in the Hereford Leisure Pool prior to the new academic year. The Committee has recommended the Council invests £72,500 to enable the pool to reopen as soon as possible; there should be no additional costs to schools; the existing charge to schools be maintained; and a thorough feasibility/business case for the next 2 years (to include LEA pool, HALO and users/voluntary sector) be formulated on the future of the pool in the context of the whole of Herefordshire swimming provision.

Cabinet is due to consider these recommendations in November.

- **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

The Edgar Street Grid project is the major development project for the County and is at an important stage in its implementation. The Committee has undertaken a review with the following aims:

- To make recommendations to maximise the value and impact of the ESG scheme for the benefit of Hereford City and the wider County;
- To understand the views, aspirations and concerns of partners and stakeholders;
- To recommend key considerations in the implementation of the ESG scheme, especially in relation to creating a whole city approach.

The Committee adopted an innovative approach to the review by seeking to complete its evidence gathering on one day at an informal meeting to which all relevant interviewees were invited, facilitating an exploration of the key issues concerning the scheme,

The Committee is to consider its recommendations on 17 October.

### **Health Scrutiny Committee**

- Following consideration of response times the Committee is to undertake a formal review of the ambulance response service in the County – with particular focus on the market towns of Ledbury and Ross –on –Wye.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None

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