

SCRUTINY ACTIVITY REPORT

Report By: County Secretary and Solicitor

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 as far as practicable under the following five roles for overview and scrutiny: holding the executive to account, best value reviews, policy development and review, external scrutiny, and Improvement (performance management and review).

Summary By Programme Area

Education

5. The Education Scrutiny Committee met on 18th November, 2003 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	Safer Routes To Schools Home To School/College Transport – Discretionary Areas Of Policy Social Inclusion Education Policy Building Schools For The Future Review Of Small Schools

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

External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Education Development Plan 2002-2007 Post Ofsted Inspection Action Plan Complaints, Compliments And Appeals
Other	Work Programme

6. The Environment Scrutiny Committee met on 21st November, 2003 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	
Best Value Reviews	Implementation of Improvement Plans
Policy Development and Review	Parish Council Minor Highway Maintenance Scheme Public Rights of Way Service
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Human Resources Capital Budget Monitoring Revenue Budget Monitoring Performance Indicators Herefordshire Plan Ambitions – progress Kerbside Collection of Recyclables GEM performance
Other	-

7. The Health Scrutiny Committee met on 13th November 2003 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	
External Scrutiny	Briefing on public health team and public health issues
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	

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

and Review)	
Other	Work Programme

8. The Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Committee met on 24th November, 2003 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	-
Best Value Reviews	Home Support - update
Policy Development and Review	Green Paper: Every Child Matters
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Serious Case Review Action Plan Better Care Higher Standards Annual Users Report Home Energy Conservation Act Annual Report Adoption Service Annual Report Complaints Comments and Compliments Supporting People Inspection Herefordshire Plan Ambition Groups Performance Indicators Budget Monitoring
Other	

9. The Social and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee met on 27th November 2003 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	Festivals Review
External Scrutiny	Presentation by HALO (the leisure trust)
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Budget Monitoring Performance Indicators Payment of Invoices

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

Other	
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Additional Issues

10. The Work Programmes of the Scrutiny Committees, with the exception of the newly formed Health Scrutiny Committee, were reported to this Committee in July. Following discussion with health partners the Committee has now approved a work programme a copy of which is appended.
11. In considering the Green Paper: Every Child Matters the Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Committee recognised that aspects also fell within the remit of the Education, Health and Social and Economic Development Scrutiny Committees and the Strategic Monitoring Committee. It has requested this Committee to determine which Scrutiny Committee should take the lead role in scrutinising issues resulting from action taken by the executive pursuant to the Green Paper.

RECOMMENDATION

- THAT (a) the work programme of the Health Scrutiny Committee be noted;**
- and**
- (b) the Committee determine which Scrutiny Committee should take the lead role in scrutinising issues resulting from action taken by the executive pursuant to the Green Paper: Every Child Matters.**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None

Health Scrutiny Committee –

Work Programme 2003-2005

Date (By)	Items
(As soon as possible after conclusion of outbreak)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination of response to outbreak of Legionnaires Disease
January 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal Meeting with the Primary Care Trust's and Hospital Trust's co-ordinators, • Confirm Scoping of Access and Waiting Review • Report on car parking at Hereford hospital • Interim report on Ear Nose and Throat Service
February/March 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Report on Ear Nose and Throat Service
April 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Communication and Morale • Report on Councillors' potential role in managing public expectation within their constituencies. • Briefing on outcomes of national initiative aimed at identifying and reducing waiting times in the system.
May/June 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm Scoping of Safely Home Review • Interim report on access and waiting review
September/October 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Report of Access and Waiting Review • Update on Climbie case issues and responsibilities • Update on communication and Morale
December/January 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim Report on Safely Home Review
March/ April 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP Contracts • Final report of Safely Home Review

Further additions to the work programme will be made as required