

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 5th October, 2004 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	
Best Value Reviews	Special Educational Needs
Policy Development and Review	Teachers Workload Agreement – Monitoring of Process School Travel Initiatives Review of Small Schools Review of school Organisation Plan
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Year 2004 Results for Herefordshire Schools Staff Sickness Absence Update on Ofsted Inspections since September 2003

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

	Capital Schemes Revenue Budget Complaints, Compliments and Appeals
Other	Work Programme

6. The Environment Scrutiny Committee met on 17 September 2004 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	
Best Value Reviews	Implementation of Improvement Plans
Policy Development and Review	Second Local Transport Plan Review of Parking Strategy
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Capital Budget Revenue Budget Public Rights of Way Performance Indicators
Other	-

7. The Health Scrutiny Committee did not hold a formal meeting in the reporting period but Members of the Committee met informally to review its activity and plan future work.

8. The Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Committee met on 4 October 2004 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	-
Best Value Reviews	Update on Progress
Policy Development and Review	Scoping for Reviews of Home Care and Supported Housing for people with Mental Health Problems Respite Services for People with Learning Disabilities Building Healthy Relationships – A new Policy for young People in Herefordshire's Care
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Inspection of Herefordshire Fostering Service The Future Shape of Adoption and Fostering Services Performance/Budget Monitoring
Other	

9. The Social and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee met on 24 September 2004 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	Reports By the Cabinet Members for Rural

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

	Regeneration and Smallholdings, Community and Social Development and Economic Development, Markets and Property.
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	Hereford City – Economic Situation Creative Industries and Tourism Enterprise programmes Review of Courtyard Theatre Festivals Review – Progress report
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Sickness Absence Performance Indicators Revenue Budgets
Other	2004 Rural Strategy Position Statement on Countryside Rights of Way Act

10. The Committee is asked to note the addition of a review of the funding arrangements for the Courtyard Theatre to that Committee's work programme.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None