

MEETING:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	4TH JULY 2012
TITLE OF REPORT:	EXECUTIVE RESPONSES TO THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP REPORTS
REPORT BY:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR- LAW, GOVERNANCE AND RESILIENCE

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To consider the Executive's response to the recommendations made to it in the following Task and Finish Group Scrutiny Reviews:

- 1 Adult Safeguarding in Herefordshire
- 2 Planning System Review – Development Control and the Operation of the Constitution
- 3 Council Procurement Policy and Local Business and Local Employment
- 4 Income and Charging
- 5 Tourist and Temporary Event Signage

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) The Executive's response to the findings of the reviews be noted, subject to any comments which the Committee wishes to make;**
and
- (b) a further report on progress in response to the Review be made after six months with consideration then being given to the need for any further reports to be made.**

Key Points Summary

- During 2011/12 a number of Scrutiny Reviews were undertaken by a series of Task & Finish Groups. The findings of those Groups were reported to this Committee and have been subsequently forwarded to the Executive for consideration.

Alternative Options

- 1 To accept the responses to the Reviews as set out in the Appendices or to make further representations back to the Executive concerning their proposed Action Plans.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 To report the Executive's response to the Scrutiny Reviews, in accordance with the Constitution.

Introduction and Background

- 3 Commencing in July 2011, this Committee appointed six Task & Finish Groups to consider a number of issues that had been raised both by the Committee and by the Executive.
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- 5 The Task & Finish Groups undertook their work during the latter period of 2011, and reported Key Considerations. The agreed reports of the Task & Finish Groups were submitted to the Executive for their consideration.
- 6 The Executive (Cabinet or Cabinet Member), have considered its response to the findings as indicated by the relevant decision notice (as appended) and have provided an action plan in response to the recommendations from the relevant Task & Finish Groups (also as appended). Please note that at the time of writing, Decision Notices for the 'Policy and Local Business and Local Employment Council Procurement' Review and the 'Income and Charging Review' were still being processed.
- 7 Cabinet or Cabinet Members agreed the recommendations as set out in the report made to them, accepting the Review's recommendations as laid out in the individual report. Action plans for each Review are appended.

Community Impact

- 8 This is set out in the relevant Executive report to the Cabinet Member.

Financial Implications

- 9 The Council is facing significant challenges in financial terms and through the national settlement and reductions in funding. The Council's five year financial strategy includes an estimated 29.7% reduction in government formula grant. Budget decisions have been based on a set of core principles that include Supporting the Vulnerable. The process also includes fundamentally challenging what the council does to ensure appropriate use of public funding and quality of service.
- 10 This is set out in the relevant Executive report to the Cabinet Member.

Legal Implications

11 Legal implications are set out in the relevant Executive report to the Cabinet Member.

Risk Management

12 Risk management issues are set out in the relevant Executive report to the Cabinet Member

Appendices

13 Executive Responses to the following Task & Finish Reports:

Adult Safeguarding in Herefordshire

Planning System Review – Development Control and the Operation of the Constitution

Council Procurement Policy and Local Business and Local Employment

Income and Charging

Tourist and Temporary Event Signage

Background Papers

- None identified.