

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>14 SEPTEMBER 2012</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>REVIEW OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY STRUCTURE</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>MONITORING OFFICER</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

## **Wards Affected**

County-wide

## **Purpose**

To consider whether to submit any comments to the Audit and Governance Committee on the proposed restructure of the Overview and Scrutiny function.

## **Recommendation**

**THAT: the Committee considers whether it wishes to submit any comments to the Audit and Governance Committee on the proposed restructure of the Overview and Scrutiny function.**

## **Introduction and Background**

- 1 Council in May 2011 agreed a revised Structure for the Overview and Scrutiny (O and S) Function.
- 2 At Council in July 2011 the Leader committed to ensuring a review of the effectiveness of the new scrutiny model was undertaken after twelve months of operation.
- 3 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) have expressed a number of concerns about the new scrutiny model during its first year of operation. They held a Scrutiny workshop on 27 April 2012 at which a proposal for structural change and the establishment of three scrutiny Committees emerged.
- 4 Members and Officers were informed of the issues raised at the workshop (including the proposed new scrutiny structure) and invited to comment.
- 5 Subsequently the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee supported a model based on two scrutiny committees and this formed the basis of an external review undertaken by Mr John Lamb. The report of this review (Update Report on the O and S Function in Herefordshire Council 2012 is appended. Mr Lamb had conducted a previous review of the Council's scrutiny function (December 2008) and recommendations in that review had underpinned the decision by Council to change its scrutiny model in May 2011. This report is available on the Council's website as part of a supplementary pack.

- 6 Council is responsible for adopting the Council's Constitution and approving changes to it. The Audit and Governance Committee is responsible for reviewing the Constitution and making recommendations to Council to amend it.
- 7 The draft report to the Audit and Governance Committee recommending approval of the recommendations in the Update Report on the O and S Function and containing a number of other recommendations to give effect to the recommendations in the Update Report is appended.
- 8 This Committee is invited to make comments for the Audit and Governance Committee to consider in making its recommendations to Council. Particular regard should be had to the draft remit of each Committee.

## **Appendices**

Draft Report to Audit and Governance Committee on 28 September: Review of Overview and Scrutiny Structure

Update Report on the Overview and Scrutiny Function in Herefordshire Council – John Lamb August 2012

## **Background Papers**

- Review of the Overview and Scrutiny Function in Herefordshire Council – December 2008 by John Lamb and Mari Davis