

Task and Finish Reviews – Progress Report

General Overview & Scrutiny Committee

REVIEWS IDENTIFIED FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY	
Proposed Review	Status
Free Schools	The Chairman has requested information concerning free schools and will decide whether a review is required. The Chairman continues to monitor the situation.
Legal Services	<p>Feasibility Study complete. Scoping to be confirmed.</p> <p>25.3.13 Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Cllr Brig P Jones CBE met with Corporate Statutory Services Manager and officers to discuss possible issues for a review. Having discussed concerns and heard how the Legal Service is now on a more business footing and that measures are now in place to monitor budgets and cases it has been decided not to undertake a Task & Finish Review.</p> <p>The Committee on 8 April requested that a similar follow up meeting be held in 3 months to ensure that progress was being made.</p>
Governance & Management of Joint Ventures/Partnering Arrangements –	<p>Feasibility Study complete. Scoping to be confirmed</p> <p>The Scrutiny Officer is in discussion with relevant officers regarding a future substantial item for Committee regarding the commissioning of services.</p> <p>13 May 2013 – the Chairman reported that he was considering a possible all member seminar on the issue.</p>
Accommodation Strategy	Feasibility Study complete. Scoping to be confirmed.
Financial Support to the Arts	<p>The Chairman suggested this review at the Committee on 10 December 2012. Scoping of the review is at very early stages.</p> <p>The Chairman and Cllr Swinford are considering the scope for a possible review prior to seeking information from the Cultural Services Manager.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Officer is working up a scoping statement for consideration.</p>
Review the Council's Communication Policy	<p>This review was suggested at the Committee on 10 December 2012.</p> <p>13 May 2013 – The Chairman is considering a number of potential themes for including in a possible review of the policy.</p>

Monitoring the Council's 'Public Services Vision'	This review was suggested at the Committee on 10 December 2012. This relates to the vision contained in the Corporate Plan 2013/15 reported to Council 23 November 2012.
Council Procurement Policy and Local Business and Local Employment (Further Review)	<p>The Committee on 10 December decided to undertake a further short review to investigate a number of concerns arising from the update.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Committee has sought further information on the Proactis system which was identified at the December meeting as being of concern and he will then decide whether the concerns are still warranted or whether to reform the T&F Group.</p> <p>14 February 2013 - The Chairman together with Cllr Atkinson and Cllr GA Powell met with the Head of Commercial Services on 14 February. While they were disappointed that the recommendations arising from the review had not been progressed they appreciated the current problems in attracting staff to key posts in the Commercial Services Team. Having been appraised of the position concerning Proactis System the current concerns were allayed. Members will receive a further update in 3 months' time.</p> <p>Arising out of the meeting the Chairman has requested background information on how the Council is attracting personnel to key posts needed to drive forward the Council's savings and improvements across the Council.</p>
Council's IT Strategy and Systems	<p>Item identified at 1 February 2013. Initial feasibility work underway.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Officer is liaising with senior officers to undertake further work on the feasibility study.</p>
Digital Strategy	Following initial discussions with key officers the Vice-Chairman and the Scrutiny Officer are considering a range of options for undertaking a review. A draft scoping statement for a review is currently being developed.

REVIEWS IN PROGRESS		
Review	Meetings	Comment
Community Infrastructure Levy – draft policy for Herefordshire (Part 2)	-	The report of the T&F Group was considered by the Committee on 10 December and forwarded to the Executive for consideration. Arising from that review it was acknowledged that further work was needed. The Group will be recommissioned to undertake that work.
	6/2/13	The T&F Group met on 6 February to receive an update and consider the further work needed to fulfil its terms of reference.
	18/3/13	Discussion held with relevant Cabinet Members. Consideration now being given to possible findings from the review.
	22/5/13	The Chairman of the Review met with the Director for Places and Communities and the Assistant Director Economic, Environment & Cultural Services to discuss a revised timetable for the review and resources.
	25/6/13	The T&F Group met to consider recent government guidance, the timetable, the draft report and the responses of Three Dragons to questions asked by the Group.
	27/6/13	The T&F Group met with Lin Cousins of Three Dragons.
	16/7/13	Further report to be considered by General Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
REVIEWS COMPLETED AND AWAITING RESPONSE FROM THE EXECUTIVE		
Review	Comment	
Housing Allocation Policy Task & Finish Group Report	The findings from the review were agreed at the Scrutiny Committee on 13 May 2013 and have been passed to the Executive for their response and action plan. The Executive response will be circulated to Committee Members shortly.	
REVIEWS COMPLETED AND SUBJECT TO MONITORING OF THE EXECUTIVE ACTION PLAN		
Review	Comment	
	None currently in this section.	