

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. Meeting to be arranged for January 2014 for follow up.</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. New accommodation strategy to be implemented so will be dealt with at this opportunity.
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>
Waste Collection	To investigate the permit scheme 6 months after implementation. Initial meeting held and scrutiny officer is working on the scoping statement. Group to commence work in February 2014.

REVIEWS IN PROGRESS	
Review	Comment
Community Infrastructure Levy - draft policy for Herefordshire	<p>The report of the T&F Group was considered by the Committee on 10 December 2012 and forwarded to the Executive for consideration. Arising from that review it was acknowledged that further work was needed.</p> <p>A report detailing the findings of the T&F Group since February 2013 was considered and approved by the General Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 16 July 2013. The Executive have published their response to this report.</p> <p>Officers are currently formulating the timescale and it is anticipated that the T&G Group will reconvene in late 2013.</p>

Cultural Services	<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> <p>Task and finish group is currently underway. Report to be completed by end of November 2013.</p>
Council's IT Strategy and Systems / Digital Strategy	<p>Item identified at 1 February 2013. Initial feasibility work underway. First meeting of group on 14 November.</p>
Fire Service Consultation	<p>On 18 October 2013 Council meeting, a notice of motion was passed that general overview and scrutiny were to lead the review onto the public consultation of the restructure of Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority. In light of this the Chairman has requested that a task and finish group shall meet in November - December 2013 to investigate the proposals and form recommendations. Results of this review shall then be heard at the 6 January 2014 General Overview and Scrutiny meeting.</p>