

## 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

5. The Adult Social Care and Strategic Housing Scrutiny Committee is to hold a short, formal meeting on 17th October, 2005 followed by an informal homelessness scrutiny event for members of the Committee and key stakeholders.
6. The Childrens Services Scrutiny Committee met on 3 October 2005 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	Briefing on School Support
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Inspection of Fostering Service
Other	Review of Co-opted Membership

7. The Community Services Scrutiny Committee met on 5 October 2005 in the evening in Ledbury and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	Presentation by Cabinet Members (Rural Regeneration and Strategy) and (Community Services).
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	Herefordshire Festivals 2004/05 Youth Matters – Green Paper Ledbury Library and Tourist Information Service Review of The Courtyard Centre for the Arts
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Community Services Performance Report
Other	-

8. The Committee's scrutiny review of how to retain 18-35 year olds within Herefordshire or attract them to the County is progressing.
9. The Environment Scrutiny Committee met on 26th September 2005 to consider the Environment Agency's management of flood risk on main rivers in Herefordshire, highlighting to the Agency a range of issues affecting the County. This was a further example of the Committee's work in scrutinising external agencies following its scrutiny of the Highways Agency's management of trunk roads in Herefordshire.
10. The Committee is to hold a further short meeting in 24 October to consider progress with the voluntary code of practice for the use of polytunnels in Herefordshire, the biodiversity conservation strategic framework and budget and performance monitoring reports.
11. The Health Scrutiny Committee met on 22 September, 2005 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	Follow up to Review of The Management of the outbreak of Legionnaires Disease in Herefordshire
External Scrutiny	Presentations by the Chief Executives of the Herefordshire Primary Care Trust and the Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust. Update on Reviews of Communication and GP Out of Hours Services
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	
Other	Response to National Health Service Organisational Change Presentation on Health Commission Health Check

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

12. The Committee's scrutiny reviews of Communication and GP out of hours services are progressing.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None