

## SCRUTINY ACTIVITY REPORT

**Report By: Director of Corporate and Customer Services**

### 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 met on 2nd June 2006 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	Presentation by Cabinet Member (Adult Social Care and Health)
Best Value Reviews	Provision of Private Sector Housing – Stage 4 Report – Improvement Plan
Policy Development and Review	Learning Disability Services – Scrutiny Review Needs Analysis Phase 1 Report
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Adult Social Care Improvement Planning Performance Monitoring
Other	Co-opted Membership

6. The Committee has received a presentation by the Cabinet Member (Social Care Adults and Health) informing the Committee of progress in 2005/06 and the challenges in 2006/07 and future years.

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

7. An interim report on the Committee's Scrutiny Review of services for people with a learning disability has been considered and the Committee will now consider the recommendations it wishes to make to the Cabinet Member (Social Care Adults and Health).
8. The Committee has also received a report on progress with the Adult Social Care Improvement Plan
9. The Childrens' Services Scrutiny Committee met on 31st May, 2006 and 19 June 2006 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	Presentation by Cabinet Member (Children and Young People)
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	Scrutiny Review of Behaviour and Discipline Management in Schools Effect of Homelessness on Young People in Herefordshire
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Revised Management Arrangements and Structure in Children and Young People's Directorate Safeguarding Children in Herefordshire Joint Area Review Improvement Plan
Other	

10. Following a briefing on the revised management arrangements and structure in the Children and Young People's Directorate, the Committee have identified a number of outcomes it would wish to see from the revised management arrangements.
11. The Committee have been informed of progress in relation to the Joint Area Review (JAR) Improvement Action Plan. The Committee conveyed to the Cabinet Member (Children and Young People) its concern over the availability of suitable housing for young people and young people and families experiencing homelessness. A further report on the JAR Improvement Plan and a report on the effect of homelessness of young people will be received at its meeting on 19th June.
12. The Committee has decided to undertake a scrutiny review of Behaviour and Discipline Management in Schools and has approved a scoping statement for the Review.
13. The Community Services Scrutiny Committee met on 6th June, 2006 and 16th June, 2006 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	Presentation by the Leader of the Council on the Economic Development matters Presentation by the Cabinet Member (Community Services)
Best Value Reviews	

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Policy Development and Review	Scrutiny Review of the Courtyard Centre for the Arts Preparations for the Three Choirs Festival Scrutiny Review of Hereford City Partnership Economic and Tourist Benefit of the River Wye in Herefordshire
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Performance Monitoring
Other	-

14. At its meeting on 6 June 2006 the Committee considered the final report of the Courtyard Review Group. The Review had taken place over an 8 month period and its findings were reported to the Committee by the Chairman of the Review Group, Councillor H. Bramer. The Review Group believe that the Courtyard can seriously improve its income generation activity which would allow it to address its budget deficit and reduce its reliance on the grants from Herefordshire Council and the Arts Council. The Review Group also felt that in order to encourage the Courtyard to increase its income generation activities then any future funding agreement with the arts centre should decrease in value over the course of the contract. This and other recommendations, as appended to this report, were approved by the Committee and passed onto the Cabinet Member (Community Services) for consideration.
15. The Committee also received a presentation by the Leader of the Council on Economic Development matters, approved a Review of the Hereford City Partnership and considered work undertaken in preparation for the Three Choirs Festival.
16. At its meeting on 16 June 2006 the Committee hosted a discussion on the economic and tourist benefit of the River Wye in Herefordshire, inviting a number of interested parties to participate.
17. One other point to highlight is the commencement of the Museum and Heritage Review Group which is now underway with a number of meetings and visits scheduled over the summer.
18. The Environment Scrutiny Committee met on 5th June 2006 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	Presentations by Cabinet Member (Environment) and (Cabinet Member (Highways and Transportation)
Best Value Reviews	Improvement Plans
Policy Development and Review	Biofuels briefing
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Capital Programme Revenue Budget GEM report
Other	

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19. Following presentations by the Cabinet Members for Environment and Highways & Transportation, the Committee questioned the Cabinet Members on issues and concerns in their respective programme areas. The meeting also debated the subject of Biofuels and how it related to aspects of Planning, Environmental Health and Trading Standards. Arising out of the debate on Biofuels the Committee have requested a briefing paper on hydro generation systems.
20. The Health Scrutiny Committee met on 15th June, 2006 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	Presentations on behalf of the Herefordshire Primary Care Trust, the Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust and the Cabinet member (Social Care Adults and Health)
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	Cost Saving Proposals – Provider Arm of Herefordshire Primary Care Trust
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	
Other	

21. In receiving the presentation from the Herefordshire Primary Care Trust and the Cabinet Member (Social Care Adults and Health) the Committee has recognised the challenges facing the Primary Care Trust and the importance of the work taking place with the Council to develop a Public Service Trust. It has also recognised the challenges facing the Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust and its plans to become a Foundations Trust hospital.

#### BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None

## REVIEW OF THE COURTYARD CENTRE FOR THE ARTS JUNE 2006

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

*(RECOMMENDATIONS & SUGGESTIONS APPEAR IN ORDER THEY FEATURE IN THE FULL REPORT AND CONTAIN A PARAGRAPH REFERENCE FOR CONVIENIENCE)*

**The turnover of the Courtyard Trading Company should be higher than the income for admissions at the arts centre. (Para 5.15)**

**Tenders should be sought for franchisees to operate a retail shop within the current Courtyard Complex. (Para 6.8)**

**That the Courtyard should investigate the possibility of operating a separate commercial gallery in addition to the current gallery sponsored by the Arts Council. (Para 6.12)**

**That the Courtyard seeks to develop a dedicated cinema space within the centre even if the venue does not extend. (6.19)**

**That the leaks in the office space be repaired as soon as possible. (Para. 6.26)**

**That the outside arts organisations housed at the Courtyard pay a fair market rental value for the space in line with other City Centre Office space including the real costs of utilities and services or be relocated to another premises in order to release much needed space at the Courtyard. (Para. 6.27)**

**That the Alloy Jewellers housed at the Courtyard pay a fair market rental value for the space in line with other City Centre workshop space including the real costs of utilities and services or be relocated to another premises in order to release much needed space at the Courtyard. (Para. 6.29)**

**The Courtyard should proceed with a more mainstream programme in order to generate more income to address the budget deficit. (Para 6.52)**

**That strict financial monitoring systems and maintained and reviewed on a monthly basis. (Para 6.53)**

**The feasibility of sharing certain core costs with another charitable organisation be investigated. (Para 6.54)**

**That tenders be invited from commercial catering operators with regard to taking up the operation of the facilities provided by the Courtyard Trading Company. (Para 6.66)**

**The Friends of the Courtyard be asked about the possibility of them staffing the bar area. (Para 6.68)**

**That methods be investigated on how to attract customers back to the Courtyard Trading Company during the day including the possibility of refunding car parking tickets. (Para 6.73)**

**That different methods of enforcing parking restrictions be investigated, including the four possible ways considered by the Review Group. (Para 6.79 – 6.84)**

**That schools be further targeted as a daytime audience and that further external funding to help with the cost of school transport be sought for when the current funding arrangement ends. (Para 7.19 and 7.20)**

**The Commissioning Agreement between the Courtyard and Herefordshire Council end at the same time as the current funding arrangements on 31 March 2008. (Para 7.26)**

**If not already done so the Commissioning Agreement between the Courtyard and Herefordshire Council be signed. (Para 7.25)**

**That any future funding deals with the Courtyard be negotiated at a Corporate level. (Para 7.18)**

**That any future funding deals with the Courtyard operate on a structured grant scheme principal with grants diminishing annually for the duration of the deal. (Para 7.27)**