

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 October 2006 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	Scrutiny of Homelessness Every Child Matters Transition to Adult Life – Scrutiny Review
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Budget 2006/07 Performance Monitoring
Other	Work Programme

6. The Committee held a homelessness consultation event in October 2005, involving representatives from the Council and relevant agencies across the County. The event, which was held to facilitate the Committee's review of homelessness, focused on exploring the main causes of homelessness in Herefordshire and considered opportunities for closer working arrangements in the future. A series of recommendations were agreed for submission to the Cabinet Member for Social

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

Care Adults and Health, The Committee has received a report setting out progress in response to its recommendations. In pursuing its scrutiny of this important area of its remit a further event involving representatives from the Council and relevant agencies across the County is planned for November.

7. The Childrens Services Scrutiny Committee met on 6th October, 2006 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	The 14-19 Strategy Progress on the Joint Area Review Improvement Plan
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	
Other	Work Programme

8. The Community Services Scrutiny Committee is to meet on 18th October and on 8th November 2006. It will consider the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	Call-in of Cabinet Members' Decision on relocation of Ledbury Tourist Information Centre Annual Report from Cabinet Member – Rural Regeneration and Smallholdings
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	CCTV in Herefordshire Churchill House Museum and the display of the Brian Hatton art collection
External Scrutiny	
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Update on Progress with High Town Refurbishment Community Services Division Budget Performance Monitoring
Other	Work Programme

9. The Environment Scrutiny Committee met on 25th September, 2006 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	-
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	Review of the Travellers Policy Review of Household Waste Recycling in Herefordshire Hydropower Briefing
External Scrutiny	Safety on the A49 and A465 Trunk Roads
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	Capital Budget

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and Review)	Revenue Budget Performance Indicators
Other	Work Programme

10. The Committee has approved a scoping statement for a review of household waste recycling in Herefordshire, one of the themes identified by the Strategic Monitoring Committee in its recent discussions on the content of work programmes.
11. It has also nominated a small team to review the draft travellers policy before it is passed to the Cabinet Member (Environment) for approval.
12. The Health Scrutiny Committee met on, 5th September, 2006 and 12th October 2006 and considered the following issues:

Theme	Reports
Holding the Executive to Account	
Best Value Reviews	
Policy Development and Review	
External Scrutiny	Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust – Foundation Trust Status Specialist Children’s Services Development “A Stronger Local Voice” A Framework for Creating a Stronger Local Voice in the Development of Health and Social Care Services. Scrutiny Review of Communication in the Local Health Service Scrutiny Review of GP out of hours Services Director of Public Health’s Annual Report
Improvement (Performance Management and Review)	
Other	Work Programme

13. The Committee is responding to the current public consultation exercise launched by the Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust inviting views on the Hospitals Trust seeking Foundation Trust Status.
14. The Committee will also be responding to a statutory consultation exercise on the possibility of developing a central building for specialist community services for children with developmental problems/disabilities.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None