

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
(INTERNAL)**

**22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2008**

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PRESENT	Councillor V. Shuttleworth (Chair) Councillors Anderson, Bowser, Mrs. Lee, Des Wilson
APOLOGIES	Councillor Mrs Jopling
ADVISERS	J. Lawton, Senior Committee Administrator and M. Cooper, Value for Money Officer and D Parkin, Performance Officer.

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**33. TO CONSIDER 2007/08 YEAR END PERFORMANCE DATA – PRESENTATION BY THE VALUE FOR MONEY OFFICER**

Consideration was given to the year end Performance Data for 2007/08 and the Value For Money Officer detailed the report. He advised that the figures were currently indicative and were due to be audited soon. In terms of performance, he highlighted that the Environment department had the most indicators within the bottom quartile. Performance clinics had been scheduled for the Scrutiny Committee where Members would have the opportunity to question officers directly in relation to their departments performance.

The Value For Money Officer advised Members that he would be grateful for feedback with regards the presentation and format of the Performance Clinics in order to improve them to suit Members needs.

The Chair requested performance data to be provided for other years as it would be important to compare yearly figures. This request was noted.

**34. TO CONSIDER A REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO IT'S PROGRAMME OF WORK**

**Consideration was given to a progress report regarding the Committee's work programme.**

The Chair did not consider there to be any problems or issues with regards the draft final report.

With regards the first recommendation, the Chair reiterated that data be brought to the performance clinics.

In relation to Recommendation 1, the Chair recalled that when the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had previously embarked on a review of the Parish Councils, progress had been slow and momentum had never really picked up. Letters had been sent to all local Parishes requesting their cooperation in the review however approximately only three responses had been received. Also staffing changes within the Scrutiny Section had meant that continuity had posed a problem.

However in light of Local Government Review, the Chair was keen to revisit a Parish review.

Councillor Mrs Lee suggested that all Parishes be contacted in writing, advising that as Local Government Review was imminent, the Committee wished to continue with the review which had previously ended inconclusively, and inviting them to respond. She strongly urged that Parish Councillors be written to as well as the Parish Clerks as it was imperative that the opinions of Members were accurately reflected. It was therefore agreed that the matter be discussed with the Scrutiny Manager and progressed.

In referring to Recommendation 2, the Chair remarked that he found the Performance Clinics an excellent tool as answers could be provided by officers on a first hand basis.

Following discussions regarding any other issues which the Committee felt it may be useful to review, in light of Local Government Review, how cooperative the Council were being in relation to the transitional process and also look at the effect the move to the Unitary Authority was having on staff morale.

Councillor Mrs Lee suggested a review of staff opinion regarding various aspects of LGR, with staff representatives from all departments being invited to talk to the Committee to gauge general feelings and ultimately then to take comments to management team.

It was therefore **AGREED** that the issue would be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee with the Scrutiny Manager.

## **CHAIR**

The meeting concluded at 5:45pm