

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09 - UPDATE

Members will be aware that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee agreed its work programme on the 17 June 2008. This was amended on 13 August to include issues arising from the Council's CPA inspection.

Details of completed and current reviews and certain matters which are being monitored are listed for your information.

JANUARY 2009	COMPLETION
<p><u>CURRENT REVIEWS</u></p> <p>Value for Money – Street Care Services</p> <p>This review is being undertaken by the Finance Panel. Meetings have been taking place since June 2008 and data has been collated from a selection of similar councils in respect of expenditure relating to refuse collection.</p> <p>The Panel has been involved in meetings with Albert Light (Lindal Waste Consultancy Services), Gary Hutchinson (Assistant Director, Environmental Services), Hilary Fryer (Street Care Manager), Joanne Kellett (Chief Finance Officer), and Joanne McMahon (Corporate Accountancy Manager Revenues).</p> <p>To complete this review the Chair, Councillor Richard Bell has requested that a further meeting with Albert Light be arranged and Councillor Bell is suggesting that a presentation be given to a combined group of members from the Executive Committee, Finance Panel and CMT.</p>	<p>Mid January</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Asset transfers to Parish Councils and Community Groups <p>In September 2008, the Chair of the Finance Panel, Councillor Richard Bell submitted a report to the Overview and Scrutiny and Executive Committees requesting the completion of the Council's asset register. Town and Parish Councils have now received a register of relevant assets for their parishes and those parishes wishing to apply for assets have been given information as to how to proceed.</p>	<p>Update on applications mid January</p>

<p>Performance Indicators</p> <p>The Performance Monitoring Task and Finish Group has met with the Assistant Chief Executive and relevant Officers. A good working relationship with officers has been established and the Group has investigated areas of under performing indicators.</p>	<p>PIs monitored by exception - up until closure</p>
<p>Weaknesses identified in the CPA 2008 report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPA Analysis 2008 <p>Meetings have been arranged to discuss those areas of weaknesses identified in the Overview & Scrutiny report 'The Scale of Things' and an analysis is being prepared by David Kinch (Co-opted Member). Meetings involving O & S Panels, Officers and Executive Lead Members have been held.</p> <p>Further work has been undertaken and an analysis and summary (CPA Analysis 2009 Part 2) has been presented at a meeting of the Chair and Auditor on 5 January 2009.</p> <p>The final draft will be presented to members at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 January.</p>	<p>Co-ordinating Group Have been involved in producing the Summary and Report.</p> <p>The final draft will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28 January 2009.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance and Contribution on Outside Bodies <p>This review is being undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Services Panel. The issue being reviewed relates to the attendance and contribution of Councillors at partnership group meetings.</p> <p>Letters have been sent to all members of the Council requesting baseline information relating to outside bodies. To date 18 responses have been received.</p> <p>A draft report has been submitted to the O & S Co-ordinating Group on the 12 January 2009.</p>	<p>The final draft will Be presented at the Meeting of the Over And Scrutiny Committee on 28 January 2009.</p>
<p>Unauthorised Parking & Obstruction of Pavements, the use of, Provision & Maintenance of Footpaths/Pavements</p> <p>This review has been undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Environment Panel. The Panel agreed that the overall aim of the review was to try to create safer use, better maintenance and accessibility of the highway pavements and footpaths for pedestrians. Meetings took place and Members decided to divide the review into three sections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inconsiderate Obstruction (Unauthorised Parking on Pavements/Footpaths) - Meeting with Police 	<p>Final draft sent to the Police, Durham CC and Teesdale DC – 22 December 08.</p> <p>The final draft is ready to be presented to the next meeting of the Overview</p>

<p>Representatives</p> <p>2. Obstruction of Footpaths/Pavements – Meeting with the Assistant Director (Environmental Services) and the Street Care Manager</p> <p>3. Maintenance of Public Footpaths/Pavements – Meeting with the Area Traffic Engineer from Durham County Council</p> <p>The final draft has just been completed and it is ready to go the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p>	<p>and Scrutiny Committee on the 28 January 2009.</p>
<p>Enforcement Activity</p> <p>During 2006 the Development Panel submitted a report examining the planning enforcement options available to Teesdale District Council, the role of Councillors and the workload of the Enforcement Officer.</p> <p>At the time Members agreed to investigate the effectiveness of the present system of planning enforcement. Amongst other things, this entailed looking at resources, workload and the inherited backlog situation.</p> <p>In October 2008, Councillors Martin Clark and Paul Ryman (Services Panel) were tasked with monitoring the review and have met Susan Porter (Planning Enforcement Officer) and Elspeth Hall (Interim Deputy Control Manager) to establish base line information about the current backlog of planning enforcement cases and the role of the Planning Enforcement Officer.</p> <p>Councillor Martin Clark is submitting a ‘light touch’ report to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>A draft report will be submitted to the O & S Co-ordinating Group on 12 January 2009.</p>	<p>The final draft will be submitted to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee On 28 January 2009.</p>

COMPLETED REVIEWS

Partnerships (Value for Money)

The final report on partnerships has been affirmed by both the Overview & Scrutiny and Executive Committees. The Performance Panel undertook this review and were involved in interviewing Council officers and representatives from key partnerships. The Panel's conclusion was that key partners were well organised and efficient.

Internal Audit Report – ICT

Following the identification of the risk of former employees continuing to have access to the Council's ICT systems, the HR & Improvement Team Leader confirmed that arrangements have been put in place for managers to ensure that all employee privileges are terminated when employment ceases, including any agency staff employed on a temporary basis.

Cemetery Provision

The Executive Committee requested that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertake a review of cemetery provision in Teesdale.

All relevant parish councils in Teesdale were subsequently contacted and information was also sought from ward members and parochial church councils where appropriate. The information gathered enabled a schedule of available burial spaces to be drawn up.

This review was subsequently approved by the Overview and Scrutiny and Executive Committees.

Rural Policing

This review was undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Services Panel following concerns raised relating to the environment, social conditions and the increase in vandalism in Teesdale.

This review was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny and Executive Committees in June 2008.

Annual Report 2007/08

The annual report highlighting key issues which the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were involved in during 2007 to 2008 was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny and Executive Committees.

Job Sector/Employment Claims

This review was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny and Executive Committees in June 2008. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee investigated issues around the difficulties some of the residents of Teesdale had apparently experienced when making employment claims.

Performance Management

The report was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny and Executive Committees in June 2008. The report outlined improvements to increase members' understanding of

the Council's performance management system and further embedded the involvement of Overview & Scrutiny in the process.

The main proposal was that a 'task and finish' group be established as an adjunct to the Improvement & Performance Board.

Fire & Risk Assessment

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is monitoring progress on a review of fire risks at Teesdale House. The latest report by the Health and Safety Manager was submitted to the meeting in November.

Members requested that CMT give the implementation of emergency lighting at Teesdale House a high priority. A report was submitted in the Council agenda for the meeting on the 17 December.

A revised report was presented to the Co-ordinating Group on the 14 January. The Health and Safety Manager had addressed the concerns of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the health and safety aspects of Teesdale House. The Interim Deputy Chief Executive advised that the report needed to be forwarded to Durham County Council as soon as possible in order for the necessary works could be included in their future work programme.