

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD – 19th NOVEMBER 2009

**REVIEW OF SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS AND SCRUTINY LEAD
MEMBER APPRAISALS**

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE & AUDIT

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Scrutiny Leadership Board to undertake a review of the Scrutiny arrangements in early 2010 and incorporate into this process the appraisal of Lead Scrutiny Members.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **Members of the Scrutiny Leadership Board agree to commission and participate in a review of the Council's Scrutiny arrangements;**
- 2.2 **Members of the Scrutiny Leadership Board agree to incorporate the appraisal of Lead Scrutiny Members in the above review.**

3.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 3.1 AUC – 39 Audit Committee 3rd November 2009

4.0 SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 The current arrangements were put in place in January 2009. Under this structure Scrutiny is undertaken through a number of mechanisms:

Scrutiny Leadership Board

Scrutiny Assembly

Sub Groups:

- Health Monitoring Sub Group
- Value for Money Sub Group
- Corporate Parenting Sub Group
- Campus Telford

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Shropshire Council

Special Interest meetings

Spotlight Reviews

In-depth Reviews

4.2 The Scrutiny structure is also aligned to the Council priorities. The Scrutiny Leadership Board currently has responsibility for scrutiny of the overarching priority – Transforming Telford & Wrekin. Each of the 6 Lead Scrutiny Members on the Board are responsible for scrutiny of one of the remaining priorities:

- Giving children and young people the best possible start in their lives
- Maintaining a high quality, attractive and sustainable environment
- Creating a safe, strong and cohesive community
- Promoting healthy communities and improving the quality of life of vulnerable and older people
- Strengthening the local economy and skills of local people
- An efficient, effective and customer-focussed Council that delivers value-for-money for the community.

5.0 LEAD MEMBER APPRAISALS

5.1 As part of the process to assess the effectiveness of Scrutiny and provide appropriate support to Members an annual appraisal has traditionally taken place for Lead Scrutiny Members. It is proposed that the appraisal process for 2009 /10 is incorporated into a wider review as set out in Section 6 of this report.

6.0 REVIEW OF SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 It is appropriate to assess the effectiveness of the current arrangements 12 months after implementation. It is proposed that a review is undertaken by an independent expert in Local Government Scrutiny. As well as seeking the views of both Scrutiny /Executive Members and Co-optees the review would also seek the views of officers from the Council and partners involved in scrutiny. A range of methods will be used to seek views including questionnaires, interviews and focus groups. Based on the evidence gathered during the review recommendations will be made on possible developments for Scrutiny.

6.2 The Audit Committee has requested a report to their meeting on the 30th March 2010 on the effectiveness of the Scrutiny arrangements introduced in January 2009. The focus of this report will be the role of Scrutiny in the Council's governance structures. In order to include this report in the wider review it will be necessary to bring the findings of the review to the meeting of the Scrutiny Leadership Board on the 25th March 2010. The time scale for this review will enable any recommendations on the scrutiny structure to be considered prior to Annual Council.

Report prepared by Fiona Bottrill (Scrutiny Manager), Tel: (01952) 383113