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## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Subject: Terms of Reference

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Council's change programme has established the posts of five Directors and two Assistant Chief Executives:

- a) Children's Services – incorporating the Local Area Agreement (LAA) theme of 'Children and Young people'
- b) Adult Social Services – incorporating the LAA theme of 'Healthier Communities and Older People'
- c) Environment & Neighbourhoods – incorporating the LAA theme of 'Safer and Stronger Communities'
- d) City Development – incorporating the LAA theme of 'Economic Development and the Environment'
- e) Resources
- f) Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Planning and Improvement)
- g) Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)

1.2 This has necessitated the need to review Scrutiny Board arrangements.

## 2.0 Main Issues

2.1 Arising from a review of Scrutiny Board arrangements Full Council agreed on 24<sup>th</sup> May to map Scrutiny Boards to *Director* portfolios, (with an Overview and Scrutiny Committee mapping on to the two Assistant Chief Executive portfolios). Council also agreed a Scrutiny Board to look specifically at leisure and cultural issues.

### Scrutiny Boards Mapped to Director Portfolios

OFFICER	SCRUTINY BOARD
<b>Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Assistant Chief Executive (Policy Planning and Improvement), Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)</b>  <b>Plus co-ordinating/advisory role</b>	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Director of Resources</b>	<b>Scrutiny Board (Resources)</b>
<b>Director of City Development</b>	<b>Scrutiny Board (City Development)</b> <b>Scrutiny Board (Culture &amp; Leisure)</b>
<b>Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods</b>	<b>Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)</b>
<b>Director of Children’s Services</b>	<b>Scrutiny Board (Children’s Services)</b>
<b>Director of Adult Social Services</b>	<b>Scrutiny Board (Health and Adult Social Care)</b>

2.2 This arrangement has coherent links with the LAA and the White Paper’s drive to encourage scrutiny to focus on more strategic issues.

2.3 The terms of reference for the Scrutiny Board (Children’s Services) are attached as Appendix 1.

### 3.0 Recommendation

3.1 Members are asked to note the arrangements for Scrutiny as agreed by full Council and to note this Board’s terms of reference.

## **Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)**

1. In relation to **Children's Services**<sup>1</sup>, to exercise the functions of a Scrutiny Board including the following:
  - (a) to review or scrutinise the exercise of any council or executive function, or any other related matter<sup>2</sup>;
  - (b) to make reports or recommendations to Council or the Executive in connection with the exercise of any functions of the Council or the Executive including proposals for changes to policies and practices;**
  - (c) to receive and review external audit and inspection reports;
  - (d) to act as the appropriate Scrutiny Board<sup>3</sup> in relation to the Executive's initial proposals for a plan or strategy within the Budget and Policy Framework; and
  - (e) to review corporate performance indicators and to make such reports and recommendations as it considers appropriate.
  
2. To receive and monitor formal responses to any reports or recommendations made by the Board.

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<sup>1</sup> These are the functions delegated under the officer delegation scheme (council functions) and the officer delegation scheme (executive functions) to:

- the Director of Children's Services;
- the Chief Officer (Early Years and Youth Services); and
- the Chief Officer (Children's Social Services)

but excluding those matters assigned to the Scrutiny Board (Health and Adult Social Care) under the Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002 as amended.

<sup>2</sup> including matters pertaining to outside bodies and partnerships to which appointments have been made by the authority

<sup>3</sup> under the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules