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## Report of the Chief Democratic Services Officer

### Executive Board

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Subject: Scrutiny – Half Year report

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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

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides an introduction to the Scrutiny half year report. The purpose of the half year report is to provide Members the opportunity to consider the operation of the Scrutiny function in Leeds and by doing so, the opportunity to address any issues of concern. It also provides an opportunity for Executive Board to demonstrate its continuing support for the Scrutiny process.
2. The half year report has been commissioned by the Executive Board Member (Central and Corporate). An annual report will be prepared for full Council in June 2010 in line with the Council's Constitution.

## **1.0 Purpose Of This Report**

1.1 This report presents to Executive Board, for the first time, the Scrutiny half year report. This report was commissioned by the Executive Board Member (Central and Corporate).

## **2.0 Background Information**

2.1 The Constitution requires that an annual report is produced for full council detailing the work of the Council's Scrutiny function. This year, in addition to the annual report, the Executive Board Member (Central and Corporate) has asked that officers prepare a half year report to be presented to Executive Board. The purpose of this report is to provide Members the opportunity to consider the operation of the Scrutiny function in Leeds and by doing so, the opportunity to address any issues of concern. It also provides an opportunity for Executive Board to demonstrate its continuing support for the Scrutiny process.

## **3.0 Main Issues**

3.1 The half year report, presented in appendix 1, covers the following topics;

- Progressing the Recommendations Arising from the May 2009 KPMG External Audit Review.
- Progressing the Action Plan identified in the 2008/9 Annual Report
- Constitutional/operational Changes to Scrutiny to date in 2009/10
- Levels of Member Attendance at Boards
- Summary of Scrutiny Work undertaken/currently being undertaken - June to November 2009
- Scrutiny Board Recommendations considered by Executive Board June to November 2009.
- Progress on Recommendations
- Making a difference and adding value
- Contribution to publications
- Challenges for the future

## **4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance**

4.1 The Scrutiny half year report provides the Executive Board with an assurance of the robustness of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements.

## **5.0 Legal And Resource Implications**

5.1 There are no specific legal or resource issues associated with this report.

## **6.0 Conclusions**

6.1 The production of a Scrutiny half year report is a new initiative for 2009/10 and provides members the opportunity to consider the operation of the Scrutiny function in Leeds and by doing so, the opportunity to address any issues of concern.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 That the Executive Board receives and considers the Scrutiny half year report.

## Background Documents

Scrutiny Board Agendas – June – November 2009

KPMG Review of Scrutiny – May 2009.