

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – HALF YEAR REPORT 2009/10

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This reports details key activities within the Scrutiny function for the period June to November 2009. The report has been requested by The Executive Member (Central and Corporate).

2.0 Progressing the Recommendations Arising from the May 2009 KPMG External Audit Review.

- 2.1 KPMG published the findings of its external audit in May 2009. The Council's response to the recommendations within this report were considered and agreed by Executive Board in July 2009.
- 2.2 A total of 18 recommendations were made by KPMG. Ten of these recommendations have been implemented in full. The remaining eight have been partially met and are ongoing and completion will be evidenced in the 2009/10 Annual report,
- 2.3 The table attached as Appendix 1 provides a comprehensive update on actions to meet all 18 KPMG recommendations.

3.0 Progressing the Action Plan identified in the 2008/9 Annual Report

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Board Annual Report to Council has within it an action plan for service improvement. Attached as Appendix 2 are details of the actions identified for 2009/10 and the progress to date on meeting those actions.

4.0 Constitutional/operational Changes to Scrutiny to date in 2009/10

- 4.1 Changes are made to the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules as a result of legislative changes and operational refinements, identified through practice. The following changes have been made so far this year;
- General Purposes Committee – Review of the requirement to have original signatures on Call In request form. Members resolved that the requirement to have original signature should remain.

- September Full Council – Agreement to the ‘Vision for Scrutiny’.
- September Executive Board resolved that Scrutiny recommendations are costed.

4.2 There are two outstanding changes for which approval will be sought. These are;

- The requirement that Members seek briefing from Director/Executive Member prior to submitting a Call In. This amendment has the support of Group Leaders and Scrutiny Chairs and will be addressed through a variation to the Call In Guidance Notes
- How to manage officer decisions referred back after Call In. This will be addressed through a variation to the Call In Guidance Notes. Called In decisions referred back by Scrutiny Boards must be considered by Executive Board should the original decision maker be inclined to stay with the original decision. This amendment has the support of Group Leaders and Scrutiny Chairs.

5.0 Levels of Member Attendance at Boards

5.1 Group Whips and Scrutiny Chairs are provided, on a monthly basis, with Member attendance figures.

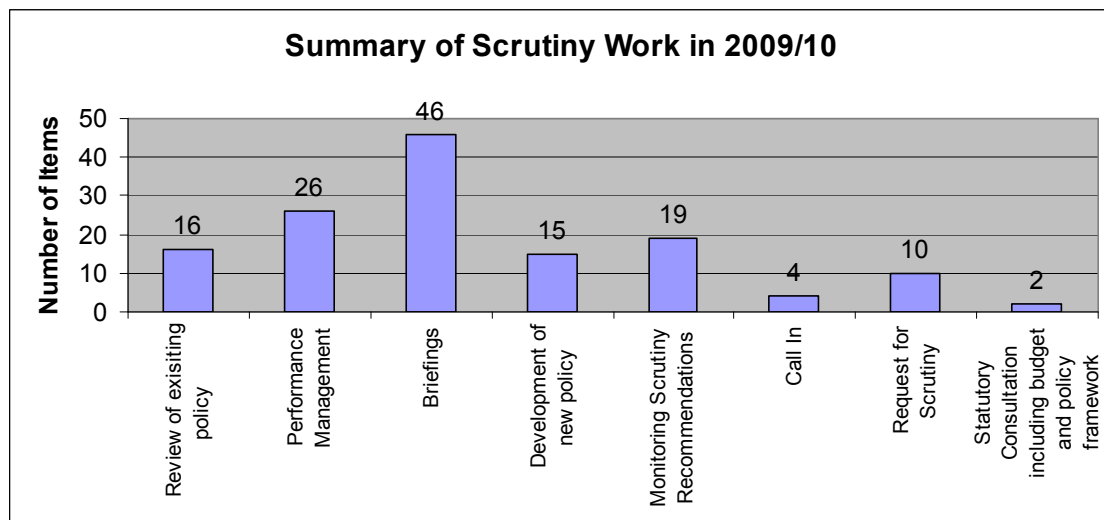
5.2 The tables below show attendance figures for each Group against each for the first two quarters of the year.

Scrutiny Board % attendance – Quarter 1 2009/10						
Scrutiny Board	Labour	Lib Dem	Conservative	MBI	Green	BNP
C&CF	90	88	100	n/a	100	n/a
Health	80	63	100	n/a	n/a	n/a
Children’s	60	83	75	50	n/a	n/a
City Dev’	50	100	50	50	n/a	100
Adult SC	75	67	50	n/a	n/a	n/a
City & Region	50	100	67	n/a	n/a	n/a
E&N	60	50	100	n/a	100	n/a

Scrutiny Board % attendance – Quarter 2 2009/10						
Scrutiny Board	Labour	Lib Dem	Conservative	MBI	Green	BNP
C&CF	87	83	89	n/a	100	n/a
Health	67	92	83	n/a	n/a	n/a
Children's	93	78	100	100	n/a	n/a
City Dev'	87	89	89	33	n/a	100
Adult SC	61	56	33	n/a	n/a	n/a
City & Region	83	89	56	n/a	n/a	n/a
E&N	87	44	67	n/a	100	n/a

6.0 Summary of Scrutiny Work undertaken/currently being undertaken - June to November 2009

- 6.1 Each month Scrutiny Boards identify the type of work that appears on its agenda. This allows scrutiny members to see at a glance the balance of the items on their work programme and support them in deciding what types of work they would like to focus on.
- 6.2 The bar chart below represents the types of work that the Scrutiny Boards have done so far this municipal year.



- 6.3 The large amount of briefings is a result of the June meeting receiving information to help Members determine their work programmes.
- 6.4 In terms of current activity, the table below shows Inquiries currently active. This table refers to formal Inquiries with terms of reference. It

does not show the plethora of other activity which is undertaken by Scrutiny Boards.

Scrutiny Board	Inquiry Topic
Central & Corporate	Use of Consultants
Adult Social care	Personalisation; Supporting Working Age Adults with Severe and Enduring Mental Health Problems; Independence Wellbeing and Choice (inc safeguarding); Transitional arrangements for children into adult social care.
Children's Services	Meadowfield Primary School; School Organisation Consultations; 14-19 review; Attendance; Impact of population growth on children's services in Leeds; Safeguarding; Youth service surveys.
City Development	Planning applications; Road safety
City & Regional Partnerships	Joint Services at Kirkstall; Inquiry into Integrated Transport Strategies for Leeds and the Wider Region - Transport Governance Discussion and Options Paper; City Region Governance Arrangements.
Health	Renal Services - 1 statement produced (and presented to the LTHT Board on 30 July 2009) - further statement to be produced (following most recent Board meeting) Dermatology; LTHT Foundation Status Proposals - formal consultation response to be provided before 31 December 2009; Scrutiny Inquiry: The role of the Council and its Partners in promoting good public health
Environment & Neighbourhoods	Recycling Inquiry; Integrated Offender Management Inquiry; EASEL Inquiry; Housing Lettings review; Procurement of housing contracts review; Worklessness review; grounds maintenance contract review.

6.5 To date, two reports with recommendations have been completed and agreed this municipal year; Major Adaptations for Disabled People (Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board) and Statement on Renal Provision (Health Scrutiny Board).

6.6 In addition to the monthly 'show piece' meeting, Scrutiny Boards conduct their business via working groups and site visits. There have been 44 working group meetings so far this municipal year. Members have also undertaken a number site visits.

Call Ins

6.7 There have been 4 Call Ins to date;

- BBQ Woodhouse Moor - released for implementation
- Sport ICT refresh – released for implementation
- Supporting people – referred back to officer decision maker – Director confirmed original decision
- Connexions - referred back to officer decision maker – Director confirmed original decision

7.0 Scrutiny Board Recommendations considered by Executive Board June to November 2009.

7.1 The table below details the Scrutiny Board Inquiry reports considered by Executive Board between June to November 2009. (I.e. this municipal year). These reports were completed in the municipal year 2008/9 and therefore do not represent the total output of the Scrutiny Boards for that year. The total work programme for the Boards in 2008/9 can be obtained from the 2008/9 Annual Report to Council.

Scrutiny Board Recommendations considered by Executive Board June to November 2009.

Report	Number of Recs	Number agreed	Number agreed with caveats	Number not agreed
VSCF and Community Engagement	8	8	0	0
Skills	17	17	0	0
Young peoples Scrutiny	11	11	0	0
Asylum Seeker Case Resolution	11	10	1	0
Sexual Health Amongst Young People	9	9	0	0
Street Cleaning	14	13	1	0
Older People Housing	20	17	1	2
Private Rented Sector	17	15	1	1
Entering the Education System	9	9	0	0
Major Adaptations for Disabled People	10	5	4	1
Totals	126	114 (90%)	8 (6.5%)	4 (3.5%)

8.0 Progress on Recommendations

8.1 Scrutiny Board operate a recommendation tracking system which puts the current status of recommendations into a relevant category; stop

monitoring, achieved, not achieved obstacle, not achieved (progress made acceptable), not achieved (Progress made not acceptable) and not for review this session.

8.2 The status given to each recommendation is decided upon by Members of the Board after discussions with the implementing officer.

8.3 The table below details progress on recommendations agreed by Executive Board this municipal year

Progress on recommendations agreed by Executive Board this municipal year

Subject	Status of Recommendations as of November 2009.					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
VCFS and Community Engagement		3		13		
Skills						
Young peoples Scrutiny						
Asylum Seeker Case Resolution		5	1	5		
Sexual Health Amongst Young People		1		8		
Street Cleaning				14		
Older People Housing	2			18		
Private Rented Sector	1			16		
Entering the Education System				4		1
Major Adaptations for Disabled People				10		

Key

1 – stop monitoring	3 – not achieved (obstacle)	5 – not achieved (progress made not acceptable)
2 – Achieved	4 – not achieved (progress made acceptable)	6 – not for review this session

8.4 Scrutiny Boards continue to monitor recommendations arising from previous Inquiry Reports. The status of these is shown in Appendix 3. Information is shown by Board. City and Regional Partnerships and Adult Social Care are not currently tracking any other recommendations than the ones shown above.

9.0 Making a difference and adding value

9.1 The number of recommendations agreed and implemented is indicative of the service improvements Scrutiny can make through its Inquiry work. For

example the Young Persons Scrutiny Board report 'Catching the Bus' continues to reap dividends. The most recent recommendation tracking update from Metro confirms that they have completed a consultant's report on concessionary fares for young people, which will shortly be widely distributed, including to the Department for Transport and DCSF. The Scrutiny report was a key driver for this piece of work. Metro has also recently established a West Yorkshire wide Youth Transport Forum which has representatives from all the Youth Councils.

- 9.2 The current inquiry on the impact of population growth has drawn on evidence from local and national experts who have given freely of their time and expertise to the inquiry - ONS, LGA and University of Leeds. The external witnesses have also offered to work further with relevant officers as a result of their attendance at the Board.
- 9.3 Health Scrutiny Board has provided the public with a voice with regards to proposed changes to renal and dermatology services - a voice that otherwise would not have been heard. This work has also served to remind local NHS organisations of their duty to engage and, where appropriate consult with the Health Scrutiny Board regarding proposed service changes and/or developments.

10.0 Contribution to publications

- 10.1 The Scrutiny Function in Leeds has a track record in contributing to national, 'good practice' publications, particularly through its work with the Centre for Public Scrutiny.
- 10.2 The work undertaken by the Adult Social Care Board in relation to 'Dignity in Care for Older People' is exemplified in; 'Walk a mile in my shoes' – Scrutiny of dignity and respect for individuals in health and social care services: a guide. (Centre for Public Scrutiny, November 2009)
- 10.3 Whilst it is not known whether a recent Inquiry into adaptations was used as evidence by the Care Quality Commission, it was reassuring to read that their conclusions and recommendations concurred with those of the Board.

11.0 Challenges for the future

- 11.1 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill has now received Royal Assent. Elements of the Act affect Scrutiny, particularly e-Petitions and Joint Scrutiny. Officers are waiting for guidance to be issued following which further briefings will be provided for the Executive Member and Scrutiny Chairs.

- 11.2 'Total Place' and the development of the City Region may also create new challenges in the way Members scrutinise decision makers.
- 11.3 The planning and commissioning of health services on a regional and, in some cases, national level, continues to be an area of development. Given its regional profile, the Leeds health economy tends to have a leading role in such arrangements. Increasingly, this will require the Health Scrutiny Board to maintain a regional focus as part of its work.
- 11.4 Scrutiny clearly has a role to play in Value for Money. Many Scrutiny Board inquiries are, in all but name, value for money reviews. For example the recent inquiries into adaptations, grass cutting and the use of consultants.
- 11.5 Scrutiny Board Members would benefit from any emerging corporate toolkit that helped them ask the right questions of chief officers in order for Members to be given assurance that value for money was being achieved in a particular area of interest to Scrutiny.
- 11.6 In addition, as part of raising the awareness of Value For Money within the Scrutiny arena, it is proposed that a number of actions are taken. These are;
- An explicit reference in Scrutiny Boards Terms of Reference as to their role in undertaking VFM reviews.
 - Individual Scrutiny Board Inquiry terms of reference to make reference to any VFM analysis to be undertaken, where relevant.
 - Potential VFM reviews to be identified with Directors and Executive Members as part of the annual work programming discussions in June.