



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)

Date: 14th June 2007

Subject: Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) – Terms of Reference

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Ward Members consulted
(Referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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 on 24th May agreed the proposal 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 the establishment of a Scrutiny Board to look specifically at leisure and cultural issues.

Scrutiny Boards Mapped to Director Portfolios

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

- 2.2 This arrangement has coherent links with the Local Area Agreements and the White Paper's drive to encourage scrutiny to focus on more strategic issues.
- 2.3 The terms of reference for this Scrutiny Board as presented to full Council on 24th May are attached as Appendix 1.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the arrangements for Scrutiny.

Council Committees' Terms of Reference

Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)

1. In relation to **Environment and Neighbourhoods**¹, 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 matter²;
 - (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 Board³ 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.

¹These are:

- the functions delegated to the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods under the officer delegation schemes (council functions) and the officer delegation scheme (executive functions); and
- the functions (d) delegated to the Director of City Services under the officer delegation scheme (executive functions).

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

³ under the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules