

ITEM 8



SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION 22 March 2005

Report of the Director of Corporate Services

Review of Derby City Council's Overview and Scrutiny Function - Draft Report.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That Scrutiny Management Commission consider the content and layout of the draft report and indicate any amendments that they wish to be made to be included in the final report.
- 1.2 The Commission confirm the conclusions and recommendations of the sub-group as set out in Section 3.1
- 1.3 That having considered the draft report the Scrutiny Management Commission indicate the Recommendations that they wish to be made in the final report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its meeting on 26 October 2004 the Scrutiny Management Commission approved and accepted a scoping and methodology report for a review of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function.
- 2.2 The draft report attached as Appendix 2 details the outcome of the Commission's review. The report is a working draft and has been provided to the Commission in this form so that they may:
 - a) Consider the content and layout of the draft report and indicate any changes that they would wish to be made before the report is finalised
 - b) Consider the evidence and information contained in the draft report and, based on that evidence and information, confirm the Recommendations that they wish to be made in the final report.
- 2.3 It is intended to submit the final version of the report for approval by the Scrutiny Management Commission at its meeting on 19 April 2005. The final version of the report, with the Commission's recommendations, can then be presented to the Annual meeting of the Council on 25 May 2005.

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Background papers: Appendix 1 – Implications
List of appendices: Appendix 2 – Draft report – A Review of Derby City Council's Overview and Scrutiny Function.

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| IMPLICATIONS |
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Financial

1. The financial implications will be included in the report to the 19 April 2005 meeting of the Commission in light of the draft recommendations agreed at the 22 March 2005 meeting.

Legal

2. The Local Government Act 2000 requires that the Council's overview and scrutiny arrangements cover the full range of functions it is responsible for. That can be undertaken by a minimum of one member body or any higher number the Council considers appropriate. Any Commission when considering local education authority functions must, in addition to the Councillor Members, include in the case of Derby five voting members representing faith communities and parents. Section 7 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 provides for the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function to review and scrutinise local National Health Service bodies

Personnel

3. The current level of resources within the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Team cannot sustain the high levels of activity referred to in the report. This means that the Council should consider reducing the workload generated by the Commissions, or increasing the resources devoted to overview and scrutiny support. The options set out in the attached report include some that could address the workload issue through structural change or more focussed activity.

Equalities impact

4. Effective scrutiny will benefit all Derby people.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5. The report has the potential to impact on all the Council's Corporate objectives and priorities for change.