



SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION 18 September 2007

Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Commission

Outline of proposed collaborative project with Derby City Partnership

RECOMMENDATION

1. That members consider the report and indicate whether they wish to engage in a collaborative project with Derby City Partnership with the objective of determining how best the established principles of Overview and Scrutiny can be integrated into the working of the Partnership.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its meeting on 29 May 2007 the Scrutiny Management Commission, considered the possible form of its work plan for 2007/08 and in order to explore the possibility of undertaking scrutiny of Derby City Partnership, asked the Co-ordination Officer to arrange a meeting with Helen Osler, the Director of the Partnership.
- 2.2 A meeting with Helen Osler was subsequently arranged for 19 July 2007 and was attended by Councillors Higginbottom, Bayliss, Dhindsa, Jones and Poulter. At that meeting Helen outlined structure of the Partnership and gave an overview of the implications for the Council of the new Local Area Agreements (LAAs), the first of which would start in 2008, and of the changes to the powers and responsibilities of local authority overview and scrutiny committees that are contained in the Local Government White Paper on Strong and Prosperous Communities.
- 2.3 Helen explained that from April 2008 all local authorities will have to have agreed 35 improvement targets drawn from a list of 200 national indicators and said that in addition to these there would be a list of 18 education and early years targets. Helen also said that the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) would be replaced by a Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) for monitoring, support, assessment and inspection which would use a risk based approach and would come into effect from April 2009.

- 2.4 Helen suggested that the under the new arrangements the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Commissions would include:
- Scrutinising local improvement targets
 - Providing support and expertise, and undertaking research to help partners to deliver on the LAAs
 - Promoting community engagement and democratic accountability
 - Requesting and examining information from LAA partners
 - Working with partners to implement scrutiny recommendations relating to LAA targets
- 2.5 Helen considered that it would be beneficial to both the Council and the partners if City Councillors were to become involved in the meetings that are being arranged for this autumn on the LAA and to select the Council's improvement targets. She also told members that she thought it would be beneficial to adopt the approach of introducing Overview and Scrutiny to the partners and of getting Overview and Scrutiny engaged in Partnership agendas, and she suggested the setting up of a member led working party, which would include herself and representatives of the partners, to decide how this could best be done.
- 2.6 There was unanimous support for the proposal from the members who attended the meeting and it was considered by them that this would be a valuable area for the Commission to concentrate on during the coming municipal year. SMC members are therefore asked whether they support this proposal and if they do how they would wish to proceed with its implementation.

<p>For more information contact: David Romaine 01332 255598 e-mail david.romaine@derby.gov.uk</p> <p>Background papers: Appendix 1 – Implications</p> <p>List of appendices:</p>

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising from this report.

Legal

2. None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities impact

4. No specific impact.

Corporate Priorities

5. This report has the potential to link with all of the Council's Corporate Priorities.