

ITEM 12



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

13 September 2005

Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Commission

Scrutiny Management Commission Workplan Topic Review for 2005/06

RECOMMENDATION

1. That as part of its 2005/06 workplan the Scrutiny Management Commission conducts a review aimed at identifying the most appropriate Overview and Scrutiny structure for Derby.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 During 2004/05 the Scrutiny Management Commission conducted a topic review (the Review of Scrutiny) that had the aims of:
 - a) Addressing the perceived areas of weakness in the Council's Overview and Scrutiny system that had been identified by members from all three political groups.
 - b) Identifying any improvements that might be made to the Overview and Scrutiny system in the light of the Council's experience of Overview and Scrutiny.
- 2.2 The outcomes of the Commission's review and its recommendations were considered at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 25 May 2005 where members voted to retain the existing six Commission structure. Despite this decision it is recognised that the Review of Scrutiny report contained a great deal of useful comment and information and some very viable pointers as to the way in which the Council might develop its Overview and Scrutiny structure.
- 2.3 It is consequently suggested that, as part of its workplan for 2005/06, the Scrutiny Management Commission should conduct a further review that would build upon the work carried out as part of the Review of Scrutiny and that over the next six months the Commission should seek to come to a consensus agreement about the most appropriate Overview and Scrutiny structure for the Council. This timescale would enable the findings of the Commission to be reported to the Council meeting on 1 March 2006 so that any changes could have effect from the Annual Meeting on 24 May 2006.

- 2.4 To avoid the need for additional meetings and to involve as many of the Commission as possible in the review, it is suggested that any discussions and evidence gathering sessions are held at the end of the Commission's scheduled business meetings on 13 September 2005, 1 November 2005, 13 December 2005 and 31 January 2006. A provisional programme for the review is set out in Appendix 2 of this report.

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Background papers:	Appendix 1 – Implications
List of appendices:	Appendix 2 - Provisional Programme for a Scrutiny Management Commission 2005/06 Workplan topic review

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. Any costs arising from this review must be contained within the Commission's research budget.

Legal

2. None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities impact

4. None arising from this report.

Corporate Objectives, Values and Priorities

5. Effective Overview and Scrutiny has the potential to link to all of the Council's Corporate Objectives, Values and priorities.

Provisional Programme for a Scrutiny Management Commission 2005/06 Workplan topic review

Objective of the Review

For the Scrutiny Management Commission to come to a consensus agreement, supported by recommendations, on what members consider to be the most appropriate Overview and Scrutiny structure for Derby.

Outline of the Review

It is intended that the review will build upon the work that was done in 2004/05 in the Scrutiny Management Commission's Review of Scrutiny. In the course of the review it is proposed that Commission members should:

- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Council's existing Overview and Scrutiny arrangements
- Examine other possible Overview and Scrutiny structures
- Agree what is seen to be the most appropriate Overview and Scrutiny structure for the Council
- Determine the levels of member involvement and of officer support that would be needed to make the selected structure function
- Contribute to a report setting out the Commission's recommendations for submission to the Council meeting on 1 March 2006.

Suggested Timetable for the Review

To avoid the need for additional meetings and to involve as many of the Commission as possible, it is proposed that review sessions are conducted at the end of the Commission's scheduled business meetings on 13 September 2005, 1 November 2005, 13 December 2005 and 31 January 2006.

The suggested timetable for the review is as set out below:

	Date	Provisional Actions
Session 1.	Commission meeting – 13 September 2005	The Commission to discuss and agree on what they consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the Council's existing Overview and Scrutiny Structure
Session 2.	Commission meeting - 1 November 2005	The Commission to consider other alternative Overview and Scrutiny structures

Session 3.	Commission meeting – 13 December 2005	Based on the outcomes of Sessions 1 and 2, the Commission to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree on what is seen to be the most appropriate Overview and Scrutiny structure for the Council. 2. Identify and agree on the levels of member involvement and officer support that would be needed to make their selected Overview and Scrutiny structure function
Session 4	Commission meeting – 31 January 2006	The Commission to discuss and amend the draft report that will be prepared for consideration at the meeting by the Co-ordination Officers and to agree the recommendations that members wish to be made to the Annual Meeting of the Council.

Any necessary additional information required by the Commission will be researched and prepared by the Co-ordination Officers and will be provided to Commission members at least one week prior to Sessions 2 and 3. The draft report will be provided to Commission members at least one week prior to Session 4.

It is anticipated that Sessions 1-4 will each last for around 45 minutes.

DRR 26 August 2005