



SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION 6 MARCH 2006

Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Commission

Identification and Agreement of Scrutiny Procedures to assist with Performance Management/Monitoring

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Scrutiny Management Commission conducts a short focussed review with the aims of:
 - a) Identifying methods that the Commissions could use to effectively monitor performance and the time/resources that would be needed to implement these methods
 - b) Setting out a performance monitoring programme for the Commissions for the coming administrative year

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The stated purpose of the Council's Performance Management Strategy is to achieve an effective and fully integrated performance management framework which is underpinned by an embedded performance management culture.
- 2.2 Effective performance management is important to the Council because it can identify areas of under performance, improve the targeting of resources, enhance services to customers and increase the ability of the Council to deliver value for money services. Effective performance management is also a key to the Council maintaining its current CPA rating.
- 2.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Commissions have a clearly defined performance monitoring role and since 2004, Performance Eye has been included as a standing item on Commission agendas. However examination of recent Commission minutes shows a serious imbalance between scrutiny and policy development (topic reviews). It is also apparent from the minutes that very little detailed, investigative performance monitoring has been conducted by the Commissions.
- 2.4 The emphasis given by the Commissions to conducting policy development reviews at the expense of scrutiny has created a situation which, if allowed to continue, could see the Overview and Scrutiny

relegated to a low key/low impact activity of limited importance within the Council. If this occurred it would be difficult for the Commissions to effectively discharge the new duties and responsibilities that are proposed for Overview and Scrutiny in the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the recent Local Government White Paper. This would be to the detriment of the Council, the Council's scrutiny members and the people of Derby.

2.5 To address the situation outlined above it is suggested that the SMC should as a matter of urgency conduct a short focussed scrutiny review during the latter part of March 2007 with the aims of:

- a) Identifying methods that the Commissions could use to effectively monitor performance and the time/resources that would be needed to implement these methods
- b) Setting out a performance monitoring programme for the Commissions for the coming administrative year

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

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. Effective performance monitoring will be of benefit to all Derby people

Corporate Objectives

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