



Committee and date

Annual Council

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Item No



Public

## Report of the Scrutiny Committees

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### Summary

This report provides a review of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees during the period June to July 2010.

### Recommendation

Council is asked to consider the Scrutiny Statements set out in the Appendices to this report

## Report

### Background

1. Full Council on 25 February 2010 approved a recommendation of the Political Structures Monitoring Group that a review of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees be presented to Council by the Chairman of the Scrutiny Chairs' Group at each meeting. Work on the review has now been completed and Council approved the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Task & Finish Group on 24 June 2010 with the new structures coming into force on 1 October 2010. Until then existing Overview & Scrutiny Committees will continue with their work programmes and report on progress. A detailed action plan will be worked upon to ensure transition to the new arrangements.
2. The following Overview and Scrutiny Committees were appointed by Shropshire Council on 18 June 2009:-  
  
Strategic Overview & Scrutiny Committee (*Chair T Barker*)  
Children and Young People's Services (*Chair C Wild*)  
Community Services (*Chair H Kidd*)  
Development Services (*Chair A Mosley*)  
Health Overview and Crime Reduction (*Chair G Dakin*)
3. Committees consist of 10 Members, politically balanced, meeting normally on a six weekly basis. Voting representatives and non voting co-optees also

provide valuable contribution. The Scrutiny Chairs have met informally on a quarterly basis.

### **Achievements from June to July 2010**

4. Statements of the work of each Committee, reporting on key achievements during the period June to July 2010, are set out at Appendices A to E.

### **Holding the Executive to Account**

5. Under the Council's decision making process, the Leader is required to publish Cabinet's planned business over a four month rolling period in a statutory Forward Plan. Through the call-in mechanism, Committees can scrutinise decisions before they are implemented. There have been no call-ins during this period.  
  
Decisions taken by the Cabinet are also reported to each meeting so that Members can request monitoring reports on the effect of decisions taken irrespective of whether they are called in for scrutiny.

### **Future Programmed Work**

6. Programmed work for each committee meeting prior to the date of next Council (30 September 2010) is included in the committees' statements.

### **Scrutiny Chairs Group**

7. Following the Council's decision on 24 June 2010 to approve the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Task & Finish Group, the Scrutiny Chairs Group will oversee implementation of the recommendations contained within the Action Plan presented to Council to ensure a smooth transition to the new structures. Meetings of the Group have been arranged for the 20 July, 17 August and 31 August.

### **Questions Relating to this Report**

8. In accordance with Full Council's decision on 24 February, 2010, Members' questions relating to the work of Scrutiny should be submitted no later than five working days prior to the Council meeting. Wherever possible, oral replies will be given by the appropriate Scrutiny Chair and to one supplementary question.

<b>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b>
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Political Structures Monitoring Group Report to Council – 25 February 2010 Reports to Scrutiny Committees June to July 2010
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<b>Human Rights Act Appraisal</b>
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The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998
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<b>Environmental Appraisal</b>
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There are no environmental issues relating to this report.
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<b>Risk Management Appraisal</b>
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There are no risks associated with this report.
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**Community / Consultations Appraisal**

Consultation is a component of Scrutiny Task and Finish Group work to collect information to support the development of conclusions and recommendations.

**Cabinet Member**

All

**Local Member**

All

**Appendices**

Appendix A - Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Statement

Appendix B - Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Statement

Appendix C - Community Services Scrutiny Statement

Appendix D - Development Services Scrutiny Statement

Appendix E - Health Overview and Crime Reduction Scrutiny Statement