

## 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 up to April 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. At present, until the Scrutiny Review work is completed, the Chairman of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee will undertake this role.
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 meet informally on a quarterly basis.

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

Political Structures Monitoring Group Report to Council – 25 February 2010  
Reports to Scrutiny Committees 2009-10

**Human Rights Act Appraisal**

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998

**Environmental Appraisal**

There are no environmental issues relating to this report.

**Risk Management Appraisal**

There are no risks associated with this report.

**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 15 (i) Briefing Note by Chairman of Strategic Overview & Scrutiny  
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

# APPENDIX 15(i)

## **TIM BARKER CHAIRMAN OF THE STRATEGIC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **Achievements up to April 2010**

1. Statements of the work of each Committee, reporting on key achievements during the period up to April 2010, are set out at Appendices A to E.

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

2. 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 has been only one call-in:-

Development Services on 26 November 2009 called in a decision taken by Cabinet on 23 September 2009 in relation to the commissioning of a regeneration framework for Shrewsbury, the outcome of which was to agree with Cabinet's initial decision.

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**

3. The programmed work for each committee for the period up to date of next Council (24 June 2010) is included in the committees' statements.

### **Scrutiny Review**

4. The review of Scrutiny, as approved by Council on 25 February 2010, is continuing and will report to Council on 24 June 2010. Council approved that a seven Member Management Group, politically balanced, be established to oversee the review (Cllrs: T Barker - Chairman, Mrs J Barrow, Mrs K Calder, G Dakin, R Evans, J Hurst-Knight and A Mosley).

All Members will be involved in recommendations for change prior to June Council as it is the wish of the Chairman of the Management Group that Members are fully briefed and recommendations are understood prior to that meeting.

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

5. 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.