

Report to Council

Date of meeting: 25 September 2008

Subject: OS report to Council – September 2008

Chairman: Councillor R Morgan

Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry, ext.4246



Item 7(b)

Recommendation:

That the Overview and Scrutiny progress report from August 2008 to the present be noted.

Report.

The main Overview and Scrutiny Committee

August 2008 Meeting:

1. The Committee considered a call-in from five Councillors on the Housing Portfolio Holders decision of 5 August 2008 (HSG/010/2008-09) regarding the recently issued 'call for sites', seeking land that may have potential for development over at least the next fifteen years. The lead member for the call-in outlined their concerns, which were summarised in the call-in notification. They wanted to know why were the sites chosen to the exclusion of any other sites in the district.
2. The public gallery was filled for this item with the overspill being housed in the reception area with the sound from the chamber being piped to them
3. After a noisy and robust debate the call-in was upheld by the Committee and referred back to the decision maker for further consideration, taking into account the specific concerns raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
4. After this the Committee considered the consultation government consultation document on the date of the European elections. This came to the committee from the Constitution and Member Services Standing Panel. The Government were consulting on the desirability of synchronising the Count and European elections in 2009, to 4 June. This would be similar arrangements to that of 2004. The committee did not unanimously support this with some members wanting to separate the two elections. The Committee agreed with the Constitution and Member Services Standing Panel and supported the joint date of 4 June 2009, with certain reservations and clarifications being required.
5. The Committee then considered another report from the Constitution and Member Services Standing Panel reviewing the elections held last May.

Standing Panels

6. Five Standing Panels have been constituted this year, each have a rolling programme that consider ongoing cyclical issues and are comprised of:
 1. the Housing Standing Panel under the Chairmanship of Councillor S Murray;

2. the Constitution and Members Services Standing Panel chaired by Councillor Mrs McEwen;
 3. the Finance and Performance Management Standing Panel chaired by Councillor D Jacobs;
 4. the Safer Cleaner Greener Standing Panel chaired by Councillor M Colling; and
 5. the Planning Services Standing Panel chaired by Councillor Mrs Wagland.
7. The Housing Standing Panel has not met since July, they will meet again in October 2008.
8. The Constitution and Members Services Standing Panel met on 8th September 2008 where they reviewed Contract Standing Orders (the use of Consultants), a Government Paper on Weekend Voting and a scoping report on the Civil Ceremonial Review.
9. The Finance and Performance Management Standing Panel met on 19th August 2008 when they considered the Consultation Plan and Register 2008/09; the National and Local Performance Indicators for 2008/09 – this item was deferred to be considered at a separate meeting; the use of Resource Assessment 2007/08 –Corporate Value for Money Review; Performance Indicator for Accuracy of Assessment of Benefit Claims; the Quarterly Financial Monitoring; Value for Money Performance and Cost Analysis 2007/08; and the Council Plan 2006-2010 – Annual Performance Monitoring 2007/08.
10. The Safer Cleaner Greener Standing Panel met on 2nd September 2008, when they considered the Traffic Management Act 2004 the Policing Green Paper and the minutes from the Waste Management Partnership Board.
11. the Planning Services Standing Panel met on 15th July and 9th September 2008. At both their meeting they considered an update on the Best Value Review of Planning Services.

Task and Finish Panels

12. The two new Task and Finish Panels (Customer Transformation and the Leisure Task and Finish Panels) also met to agree their terms of References and their draft work programme for the year ahead and are continuing to meet to further their work programme.