

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE RESPONSE TO THE PEER REVIEW OF SCRUTINY

Submitted by: Elections and Licensing Manager

Portfolio: Customer Service and Transformation

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To inform the Council of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee's response to the Peer Review of Scrutiny carried out in April 2011.

Recommendations

- (a) That the recommendations in the report be agreed.
- (b) That the suggested amendments be made to Section 6.1.

Reasons

The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee discussed the findings of the Peer Review of Scrutiny at its meeting on 26 July 2011.

1. **Background**

1.1 In April 2011, the Chief Executive commissioned a team of member and officer peers to undertake a review of the Borough Councils scrutiny arrangements. The team which included elected members from Stroud District Council, Chester Council and Staffordshire County Council was asked to assess the Borough Council's scrutiny arrangements against the Centre for Public Scrutiny's four principles:

- That Scrutiny is owned and led by elected members
- That Scrutiny provides a 'critical friend' challenge to the council's decision making process
- That Scrutiny reflects the interests and concerns of the public
- That Scrutiny drives improvement

1.2 The detailed report of the findings is attached at **Appendix A** and was discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee at its meeting on 26 July 2011.

2. **Issues**

2.1 The Committee agreed with the recommendations in the report but considered that the wording in 6.1 should be strengthened to state that the Council would act on rather than just consider the appointment of at least one scrutiny officer as part of the restructure of Democratic Services.

3. **Options Considered**

3.1 That the recommendations be agreed and the proposed amendment made to 6.1.

4. **Proposal**

- 4.1 That the recommendations in the Scrutiny Peer Review be agreed with the exception of 6.1 which be amended to state:

This recommendation is noted and the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee will ask the Head of Central Services to act on this as part of the proposed review of the democratic services function.

5. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

- 5.1 As detailed in **Appendix A**.

6. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- transforming our Council to achieve excellence

7. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

There are none.

8. **Equality Impact Assessment**

There will be no adverse impact.

9. **Financial and Resource Implications**

None have been identified at the present time.

10. **Major Risks**

None

11. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

Not applicable.

14. **List of Appendices**

Appendix 'A' - draft Response to the Peer Review of Scrutiny Recommendations.