

SCRUTINY

REPORT : EVALUATION OF THE PILOT ARRANGEMENTS

REPORT TO: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

DATE: 18 December 2006

1. Purpose of the Report

To ask the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee to approve the continuation of the Overview and Scrutiny arrangements.

2. General Information

An evaluation form was sent to all Members.

3. Results

Of the 36 evaluation forms which were sent to members, there were 17 (**46%**) completed forms. The results of the evaluation are attached as **Appendix A**.

Of those who did respond, 6 were **not** Members of Overview and Scrutiny and were therefore unable to answer the questions 1-3.

Two Members indicated that they were not involved in the old scrutiny arrangements and could not give a comparison, therefore they did not complete the questionnaire.

4. If Members agree to continue to work to the new structure, they will need to give consideration to the following:-

- A Member has suggested to re-name the Task and Finish Groups to Review Teams to provide clarity and distinction from the Policy, Performance and Audit Task Group.

- If the Overview and Management Team continue to meet bi-monthly, there may be an urgent item that needs referring to either Cabinet or Council outside the timescale of presenting the item to Management Committee.

The Chair of the respective Task Group should be given authorisation, with agreement of Members, to take an item direct to either Council or Cabinet. This happened at the last Policy Task Group when they asked that the Council sign-up to the Nottingham Declaration. This was considered and agreed by Cabinet, without going to the Management Committee.

5. Recommendation

1. That the Committee recommend approval to Full Council the extension of the pilot Overview and Scrutiny arrangements.
2. That, subject to agreement by the Full Council to adopt the arrangements (as per 1 above), the Overview and Management Committee further resolved
 - i) That the Task Groups' Terms of Reference be amended to include the referral of urgent items direct to either Cabinet or Full Council.
 - ii) That the Task and Finish Groups be named Review Teams
 - iii) That the current pilot arrangements continue until Annual Council

Appendix A

Question 1 – Which Task Group are you a Member?

Policy	8
Performance	2
Audit	1

Question 2 – Are you happy with the way the Task Group is Working.

Yes	10
No	

One Member indicated that as a new Councillor he/she wasn't sure.

Question 3 – How well do you think the Task and Finish Groups are working?

Very well	7
OK	3
Could do more	1

Question 4 – Do you think O & S works better under the new pilot arrangements?

Yes	16
No	

One Member indicated that he/she wasn't sure as he/she was a new Councillor

Question 5 – Do you think that Officers who present their report to the Task Groups of O & S provide sufficient information to enable O & S to perform its role and functions?

Yes 16

No

One Member answered sometimes

Question 6 – Would you like to continue with the new arrangements on a permanent basis?

Yes 17

No