

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Agenda Item 9

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: General Scrutiny Update
Date of Meeting: 8 June 2010
Report of: Director of Strategy and Governance
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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 OSC has a role in coordinating the work of scrutiny, this report therefore provides OSC members with a general update on developments within the scrutiny function.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members note the report.

3. GENERAL UPDATE

3.1 Scrutiny Panel Update

Attached as appendix 1 is a list of scrutiny reviews; most reviews will be coming to an end during the course of June and July. This will allow the scrutiny team to focus during the summer on scoping the ideas brought forward as part of the panel consultation for presentation to the Commission in September 2010.

3.2 Topics for scrutiny reviews

Following agreement at the April OSC all LSP groups have been written to requesting suggestions for future panel topics. An article will be in the next edition of Citynews inviting residents to bring forward ideas; this will be accompanied by a press-release and use of the council's consultation portal.

3.3 Student Placement

Student placements from January 2011 – Working with the University of Sussex two final year students on the Politics and Contemporary European Studies course will be offered placements within the scrutiny team. They will be supporting the work of a scrutiny review under supervision from the Head of Scrutiny. This offers an excellent opportunity for students seeking practical work experience whilst also providing a source of new ideas and challenge to the council. If this is successful it will be repeated/expanded in future years.

3.4 Recommendations

All of the scrutiny recommendations that have completed their journey through cabinet and council have been timetabled into scrutiny committee work-plans for monitoring. Recommendations are being monitored after 6 and 12 months and then annually or at the request of the Committee.

Seeking to improve scrutiny recommendations the scrutiny team are developing advice for panels. This will be around moving towards SMART recommendations. SMART is defined in a number of different ways but seeks to ensure that recommendations are more focused and easier to monitor.

3.5 Budget Scrutiny

To reflect the likely dates for the budget during 2010/11 various scrutiny committee meeting dates in December and January are being altered. Committee chairs are being consulted on and dates which will be circulated shortly.

3.6 Communication with Members

From June 2010 a quarterly scrutiny update will be sent to all council members, partner organisations and senior officers.

3.7 Parliamentary Support

During the general election period a Parliamentary Clerk was seconded to the scrutiny team undertaking preliminary research work for the autism scrutiny panel. Members nominated for this panel have been sent this preliminary research.

3.8 Members' Ward Surgeries

Scrutiny will be undertaking a short comparative piece of work looking at Members' surgeries, locations, support available and how they could be made more effective.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Individual actions described within this report have been consulted upon.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 All developments will be implemented within the agreed scrutiny resources.

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are no sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Utilising interns to support scrutiny panels is a win/win situation however it will require close coordination with the university.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 Continued development of the scrutiny function will support all corporate priorities.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. None

Documents in Members' Rooms:

None

Background Documents:

1. None

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Panels

Panel Title	Current Status
Dual Diagnosis (OSC)	Reported to Council with Executive response
Students in the Community (ASCHOSC)	Reported to Council with Executive response
Older people and community safety (ECSOSC)	Reported to Council with Executive response
GP Led Health Centre (HOSC)	Reported to Council with Executive response
Children and alcohol related harm (CYPOSC)	To be reported to Council.
Environmental Technologies (CTEOSC)	To be reported to Council.
Dignity at Work (OSC)	Agreed at OSC – 27 April
Street Access Issues (OSC)	Agreed at OSC – 27 April
20 mph (ECSOSC)	To report June ECSOSC
Dementia Strategy (ASCHOSC)	To report June ASCHOSC
Winter Service Plan (ECSOSC)	To report June ECSOSC
Staff Disability (OSC)	On this agenda
School Exclusions (CYPOSC)	To report June CYPOSC
Support Services for the Victims of Sexual Violence (ECSOSC)	To report June ECSOSC
Climate Change Adaptation (OSC)	To report July OSC
Cultural provision for children (CTEOSC)	To report Sept CTEOSC
Autism Services for Adults (ASCHOSC)	Established March 2010
Alcohol related hospital admissions (HOSC)	Established. Being coordinated with IC pilot work