

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2008
Subject:	Report from the scrutiny policy and performance lead members' quarterly briefings
Responsible Officer:	Tom Whiting Assistant Chief Executive
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Paul Osborn, Strategy and Business Support
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix One – Report for the Scrutiny Policy and Performance Lead Councillors

## Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the items that have been considered by the scrutiny policy and performance leads at their quarterly briefings between April and June, and details the recommendations they would like the committee to consider with regard to further action/escalation

### **Recommendation:**

Councillors are recommended to:

- Consider the report from the Scrutiny policy and performance leads and consider recommendations as included therein.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **(Background (if needed))**

This report records the outcomes of quarterly briefings of scrutiny lead policy and performance councillors and seeks the endorsement of committee of the action proposed. The report is divided into 5 sections and individual reports have been included in this report for:

- Corporate Effectiveness and Finance
- Sustainable Development and Enterprise

No meetings have taken place since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny committee for:

- Adult Health and Social Care
- Children and Young People
- Safer and Stronger Communities

### **Current situation**

Not appropriate to this report.

### **Why a change is needed**

Not appropriate to this report.

### **Main options**

Not appropriate to this report.

### **Other options considered**

Not appropriate to this report

### **Recommendation:**

To consider and endorse the reports from the scrutiny policy and performance leads.

### ***Considerations***

#### **Resources, costs and risks**

Any costs associated with these recommendations will be met from within existing resources. Where specific projects are escalated for more detailed consideration in the scrutiny process, specific implications of these projects will be considered during the scoping process

#### **Staffing/workforce**

There are no staffing or workforce considerations specific to this report. Where specific projects are escalated for more detailed consideration in the scrutiny process, specific staffing implications of these projects will be considered during the scoping process.

#### **Equalities impact**

There are no specific equalities implications in this report. Where specific projects are escalated for more detailed consideration in the scrutiny process, specific equalities implications of these projects will be considered during the scoping process.

## Community safety (s17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998)

There are no specific equalities implications in this report. Where specific projects are escalated for more detailed consideration in the scrutiny process, specific community safety implications of these projects will be considered during the scoping process.

## Legal Implications

None

## Financial Implications

Any costs arising from the recommendations will be contained from existing budgets.

## Performance Issues

Delivery of the Council Improvement Programme is linked to improvement in a number of key areas as illustrated in the table below. Ongoing monitoring of the CIP by the Corporate Effectiveness Scrutiny Lead Councillors should support improvement in these areas.

Regulatory Judgment	Current Score	Impact of Proposals
Corporate Assessment	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improves performance management</li><li>Addresses capacity shortages in the organisation – elected member development, addressing sickness absence, management development arrangements</li></ul>
Use of Resources	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Improves procurement savings delivery and income generation to improve financial standing</li><li>Improves financial management and reporting processes</li></ul>
Access to Services	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Addresses key recommendations from recent inspection</li></ul>
Direction of Travel	Improving Adequately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Codifies council's overall improvement programme to increase pace of change</li></ul>

National Indicator	Performance Comment
NI 185 CO2 – Reductions from Local Authority Operations NI 186 – Per Capita CO2 Emissions in the Local Authority Area	Further consideration of Sustainability and building and low carbon economy by the Sustainable Development and Environment Lead Scrutiny Councillors may support the council's performance in this area.

## Risk Management Implications

None

### Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Sheela Thakrar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Chief Financial Officer
Date: 17 July 2008		
Name: Helen White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Monitoring Officer
Date: 17 July 2008		

### Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Lynne McAdam, Service Manager Scrutiny 020 8420 9387

Background Papers: None

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	NO
2.	Corporate Priorities	NO

## **APPENDIX ONE**

### **REPORTS FROM THE SCRUTINY POLICY AND PERFORMANCE LEAD COUNCILLORS**

#### **ADULT HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

There is no report from the Adult Health and Social Care Lead members for this meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

There is no report from the Children and Young People Lead members for this meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> July.

#### **CORPORATE EFFECTIVENESS LEADS BRIEFING**

The Policy and Performance leads for corporate effectiveness picked up some of the issues considered at the challenge panel that discussed the Council Improvement Plan (CIP) on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. They received a briefing from the Human Resources and Development strategy manager specifically regarding the HR components of the CIP and endorsed the recommendations arising from the challenge panel that:

- The organisation needs to be aware of the many influences that contribute to high sickness levels
- As councillors are as much a part of the improvement process as officers, some form of appraisal process should be introduced for members
- The pilot of the Management Development Programme for middle managers should be fully evaluated before the First Line Manager Programme is rolled out in order to sure that any amendments in the former are reflected in the latter.
- The process of 'succession planning' might be more usefully focussed on 'career planning'. Improving the career prospects of staff can mean that staff morale can be boosted and the council may be able to retain more of its staff.
- Resources for the HR stream is crucial and the panel does not wish to see any projects 'de-prioritised'. It is critical that sufficient resources are found to deliver this stream.

The lead members will keep a watching brief on the overall delivery of the Council Improvement Programme at their subsequent meetings

- 1) *Recommendation*
- 2) *That future meetings of the corporate effectiveness monitor the implementation of the Council Improvement Programme*

Next Meeting  
4<sup>th</sup> September

#### **SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES**

There is no report from the Safer and Stronger Communities Lead members. The next meeting is scheduled for 31<sup>st</sup> July.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE LEADS BRIEFING**

Members discussed issues expected to impact upon the sustainable development and enterprise areas in 2008/09. It was decided that this meeting would look in detail at national developments, with local issues being examined at the next meeting, by which time more detail on the CIP would have become available, as well as some clearer guidance from the GLA on the Mayor of London's priorities.

**Sustainability and building and low carbon economy** – issues were discussed relating to the government's response to the findings of the Commission on Environmental Markets and Economic Performance. A raft of legislation is expected later this year, and next year, on issues relating to sustainability, whereupon the impact upon Harrow may be clearer. With this in mind, it was suggested that scrutiny might carry out a piece of work on sustainability at some point during 2008/09.

**Housing and the draft legislative programme** – it was noted that there were certain items in the draft legislative programme for 2008/09 that would have a significant impact upon housing. These issues will be looked into in more detail upon the publication of draft Bills.

**Transport issues** – there are not many transport issues at the moment which have not been already considered by the leads, although it was agreed that the issue of withdrawal of direct services to Gatwick and London Overground performance would be kept under review. It was hoped that some more information could be provided to the next meeting on the replacement of Metropolitan line trains.

### *Recommendations:*

- 1) *Consideration be given to including a piece of work on sustainability in the scrutiny work programme*
- 2) *Further information to be provided following the publication of proposed legislation*
- 3) *Withdrawal of direct services to Gatwick be kept under review*
- 4) *Further information be provided to the next leads meeting on the replacement of Metropolitan line trains*

Next meeting

To be confirmed