

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	27 July 2010
<b>Subject:</b>	Scrutiny Member Induction / Development programme 2010/11 – Progress Report
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Alex Dewsnap – Divisional Director, Partnership Development and Performance.
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member area:</b>	Councillor Jerry Miles, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Enclosures:</b>	None

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report outlines the progress that has been made in developing and implementing a training and development programme for Scrutiny Members during the course of the 2010/11 municipal year and beyond.

**Recommendation:**

- I. That the committee agree to the action being proposed; and
- II. That the committee request further reports on proposals for the scrutiny member development programme.

## Section 2 – Report

As a result of the Borough elections that were held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2010, 19 new councillors were elected onto Harrow Council, almost one third of the total membership. Many of these are engaged on overview and scrutiny. There are six new members on this Committee, two on Performance and Finance Sub Committee and three on the Health Sub Committee.

This influx of new members will bring fresh ideas and new skills to scrutiny but the need to support these members, as outlined in the previous report to this Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2010, will assume even greater importance.

As members will be aware, the scrutiny team participated in the corporate welcome evening for new members on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010. On 17<sup>th</sup> May there was an introduction to scrutiny evening, as part of this event the DVD *What has scrutiny ever done for us* was shown. The event attracted a favourable response from members.

Currently two further scrutiny training and development sessions are in the pipeline, the first took place on 20<sup>th</sup> July and was entitled *About Scrutiny*. This session covered topics such as what is scrutiny, legal powers and duties, scrutiny roles and putting these roles into practice.

The second session is, at the time of writing, at an advanced stage of preparation and is scheduled to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2010. This second session is entitled *Scrutiny Skills*. This will include a practical session in which members will be invited to consider how to scope, plan and undertake a scrutiny project.

Further sessions are in preparation, possibly for November 2010 and January and March 2011. These are likely to be a second skills session, an event on roles and responsibilities and finally on the big issues facing the Council – Health, the Police and the Economy are likely to be included within these sessions.

The aim of these events is to enhance the skills of members for the four year duration of the Council and to provide you with details on the big policy issues facing the council. In order to ensure that the more specific training needs are being met, the scrutiny team is proposing to undertake a training needs analysis of scrutiny members. In this way we can ensure that the training that is provided is targeted at the most important issues and that we are using resources, including members' time, most efficiently.

As previously reported it is intended that these sessions will be as interactive as possible – the first session will feature a question and answer session and the second event will be based on a case scenario.

There are significant challenges facing the Council in the next few years and there is a need for scrutiny to be equal to the challenges presented. The training proposed will enable scrutiny members to meet these challenges more effectively.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with the delivery of this report as the majority of the programme will be delivered in house by the scrutiny team and other officers from the Council.

## **Performance Issues**

There are no performance issues associated with this report.

## **Environmental Impact**

There is no environmental impact associated with this report.

## **Risk Management Implications**

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

## **Corporate Priorities**

Build stronger communities.

## **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

Not necessary for this report.

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

### **Contact:**

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### **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers