



**REGENERATION, HOUSING, ENVIRONMENT AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY AND
PERFORMANCE PANEL**

28 JULY 2004

REVIEW OF SCRUTINY ACTIVITY 2003/04

Portfolios: Cllr A Andrew – (Regeneration)
Cllr M Longhi - (Environment)
Cllr M G Pitt - (Housing and Community Safety)

Summary of report:

This report summarises the work of the five scrutiny and performance panels during the municipal year 2003/04.

Background papers:

Reports to scrutiny and performance panels, July, 2003, reports to cabinet and council - September, 2003.

Recommendations:

1. To note the summary of scrutiny activity for the municipal year 2003/2004 and that this will form part of the basis for the development of the council's scrutiny function.

Signed:

Executive Director: Carole Evans

Date: 21 July, 2004

DRAFT TRAINING SCHEDULE 2004/5 – SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE PANELS

WHEN	WHAT	TRAINING DETAIL
20/7/04 6pm – 8pm	Workshop Ch/Vc Scrutiny with EMT	Chairs and Vice chairs of scrutiny and performance panels meet with EMT
July scrutiny panels	Brief presentation to each scrutiny panel– what is scrutiny	Basic Information and booklet ‘the good scrutiny guide’
September 2 sessions 2-4.30pm & 5.30-8pm	<p>Member Development Ch/Vc – facilitated training seminar.</p> <p>Chairing Scrutiny can be one of the most challenging roles for councillors. It can be frustrating and it can be rewarding. Many scrutiny chairs and vice-chairs argue that it is different from chairing traditional service committees, requiring a broader range of skills and competencies. Yet, an effective scrutiny chair can really ‘energise’ overview and scrutiny committees. This seminar examines key issues crucial to the effective chairing of overview and scrutiny committees.</p>	<p>This workshop will give Chairs and Vice Chairs of overview and scrutiny an opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rehearse experience & skills that contribute to best practice, • explore ways of engaging all members involved in scrutiny, • review relations with the party group & the executive, • work out how best to balance overview with scrutiny, • complete an audit of the way scrutiny is developing in Walsall
October 2 sessions 2-4.30pm & 5.30-8pm	<p>Member Development All Scrutiny members Facilitated training Seminar</p> <p>Designing effective arrangements for overview and scrutiny is one of the most challenging aspects of creating new political structures. This seminar, is for members only. It is specifically tailored to address the needs of councillors serving on scrutiny committees. A range of key issues are examined including the meaning of scrutiny, ensuring that scrutiny is member-led and achieving the right level of officer support. Various seminar methods are used including presentations by the convenor, group discussions, invited speakers and case studies.</p>	<p>This workshop will give all members of overview and scrutiny an opportunity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to gain an appreciation - based on research - of the key elements of successful overview and scrutiny, • to increase understanding of: the role of scrutiny in Walsall, • to review positive aspects of in-house plans for O & S, • to agree areas for further attention, • to develop learning plans that will enhance the contribution of individuals to O & S

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October Half day	<p>Management Development AD's & Heads of Service</p> <p>Creating effective overview and scrutiny arrangements is one of the most challenging aspects of the Modernisation agenda for local government. Yet it also holds great potential to strengthen the community leadership role of councils, their partnership working and, crucially, to provide satisfying and meaningful roles for non-executive councillors.</p>	<p>The potential of scrutiny - to enhance community leadership and promote good governance - depends on the commitment and energy officers and councillors bring to making the new process work. This requires a concordat on managing relations between scrutiny and executive and an understanding of what is expected of officers who share the task of servicing both executive and scrutiny.</p> <p>GOALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To clarify relations of officers, with each other and with councillors as these apply to the work of overview & scrutiny, • To review the current state of play and future directions in Walsall, • To clarify how scrutiny fits into the overall structure, including relations with the executive and full council, • to strengthen trust and shared learning.
End of October / early November	<p>Members and Managers Workshop style 'Putting learning into practice'</p>	<p>Set up in 5 groups - one table per scrutiny panel/ work through in role play / advise facilitator of details of forthcoming budget consultation or other like project. Give each panel a subject and ask them to work through the process to making recommendations to Cabinet</p>
October	Health Scrutiny Panel members and partners	Health scrutiny seminar / workshop