

Council 24 May 2006

Review of Scrutiny Activity 2005/06

Portfolio: Performance Management – Councillor Longhi

Service Area: Corporate Performance Management

Wards: All

Summary of report

This report summarises the work of the five scrutiny and performance panels during the municipal year 2005/06.

Recommendations


- (1) To note the summary of scrutiny activity for the 2005/06 municipal year and that this will inform the further developments of the council's scrutiny function.

Signed 
Councillor M. Bird

Date: 12 May 2006

Signed 
Councillor I. Shires


Date: 12 May 2006

Signed 
Councillor B. Sanders

Date: 12 May 2006

Signed 
Councillor C. Towe

Date: 12 May 2006

Signed 
Councillor T. Oliver

Date: 12 May 2006

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1. Introduction

- 1.1** The following paragraphs summarise scrutiny activity and developments during 2005/06.

2. Development in Scrutiny 2005/6

- 2.1** Responsibility for the delivery and development of the scrutiny function has rested with the Corporate Performance Management team since 2004. A small scrutiny team provides support to members in their scrutiny role.
- 2.2** In addition to the 5 scrutiny and performance panels a number of working groups were established together with those re-established from the previous municipal year to continue work which had not been completed. Two of those have been cross-panel working groups. In addition a sub-committee was again established to deal with scrutiny of health services in Walsall.
- 2.3** Working groups as a vehicle for conducting detailed scrutiny have again proved effective and have continued to develop new working practices that include research, site visits and questioning techniques. **Appendix 1** illustrates the structure of scrutiny for 2005/6 and how activities were organised.
- 2.4** Scrutiny panels have continued to work towards improving their performance. They have reviewed the way the forward plan is presented to their meetings by requesting a more detailed explanation of the issues on the plan. In addition other improvements have been the inclusion on each panel's agenda only those issues from the plan which relates to that panel or the hyper link on the agenda to the forward plan on the council's web site. The forward plan has also been placed in each political group room to aid the scrutiny process in becoming more streamlined and focused. To promote training opportunities to support the work of scrutiny each panel also has a standard agenda item related to training available and feedback from training attended.
- 2.5** As part of the performance review of the service, scrutiny has undergone a fitness check delivered by IDeA in February 2006. The outcome has been used to inform the performance review improvement plan and will be submitted to cabinet for approval early in the new municipal year.
- 2.6** The scrutiny end of year review which took place on 22 March gave members the opportunity to feedback on the work that had been conducted and also to inform the performance review improvement plan.

3. Activity

- 3.1** The Table below sets out the number of meetings of the panels and sub-groups during the year. The table includes all meetings up to and including 28 April 2006. Where a joint working group meeting has taken place, it is recorded under the lead panel. Details of these meetings including the recommendations which have been submitted to cabinet are set out in **Appendix 2**
- 3.2** **Appendices 3-7** show the detailed activities of each panel organised into themes.

PANEL	SCHEDULED	SPECIAL	CALL INS	SUB GROUPS	TOTAL
Community Organisation Leisure and Culture	7	9	1	8	25
Children's Services and Lifelong Learning	6	3	0	6	15
Health and Social Care	7	1	0	15	23
Regeneration Environment, Housing and Community Safety	7	3	1	10	21
Resources and Performance	6	3	0	10	19
Special Time Limited Health Scrutiny Panel	4	0	0	0	4
TOTAL	37	19	2	49	107

4 Scrutiny and Performance Panel Feedback

4.1 Community Organisation, Leisure and Culture

During the year the panel has considered a variety of issues from the work programme which was agreed at the start of the year; key issues are set out below:

4.1.1 Community Association Funding

The community association work group was re-established to discuss the transforming youth services agenda, the proposed delegation of funding and the impact on community associations. The group identified a funding gap and made recommendations through the budget consultation process to help fill the gap. The work of the group has, on the whole, achieved its objectives and its final review document and recommendations have been approved by the panel and submitted to cabinet for consideration. Cabinet has, in response, supported a number of the recommendations put forward, as it was felt they reflected the way community associations should develop in the future.

4.1.2 Disability Strategy Review

The work group was re-established to allow the final review document to be completed. The final document was approved by the panel and submitted to cabinet in November 2005. The review document was also circulated to disability groups and forums within the borough.

4.1.3 Procurement Gateways

Members revisited this issue and again agreed to follow the procurement of leisure management operations which is due to commence in 2006. This issue is in the work programme for 2006/7.

4.1.4 Putting the Citizen First

The panel continued to monitor and receive information about this project. As a result of cabinet's decision on 18 January 2006 to not proceed to contract with Fujitsu, this decision was 'called-in' by the Chair of community organisation leisure and culture scrutiny and performance panel. The purpose of the 'call-in' was to enable the panel to gain a better understanding of the reasons for the termination of negotiations.

The 'call-in' meeting took place at the end of January 2006 and its conclusions were forwarded to an extra-ordinary meeting of Council which took place on 6 February 2006.

4.1.5 Green Spaces Strategy Review

The green spaces working group was established to scrutinise the process and development of the strategy to ensure that it is fit for purpose and is in line with the vision 2008 priorities.

The working group held a number of meetings and raised a number of questions in relation to the consultation conducted towards the drafting of the strategy. The questions highlighted some areas which fell outside the brief of the consultant appointed to prepare the strategy but were in need of further investigation.

The input from this working group has been recognised and work to address some of the key points raised has commenced and will be built into the strategy. The strategy is near completion and will be submitted to Cabinet in July 2006. The working group will be commenting on the strategy prior to its submission to cabinet.

4.1.6 Citizens Panel

The scrutiny panel undertook a review of the process of establishing a citizens panel in Walsall. Information was received on the company appointed to set up the citizens panel; the criteria used in appointing that company and panel members. Details were also received in respect of future arrangements for the governance of the citizens panel.

Two sets of draft surveys were received by members prior to circulation to the citizens panel which provided members with the opportunity to influence the preparation of the questionnaires. Members have requested that the results of the survey in respect of Leisure and Culture services, be submitted to the panel as soon they have been compiled.

4.1.7 Voluntary Organisations Grant Application

Having received a presentation from the portfolio holder on the process for grant applications, the panel agreed to review this process at a special workshop to identify any possible changes to the current process for future years funding allocations.

At the first workshop members received a copy of the 2005/6 application form and made a number of suggested changes including the creation of three categories of application forms to encourage smaller organisations to apply; a revision of the criteria for successful applications; ring-fenced budgets for each category of application and the creation of a timetable for the decision making process which will include scrutiny being consulted prior to applications being approved by cabinet. The suggested amendments to the process will be submitted to cabinet to be adapted during the 2006/7 application period.

The panel further agreed that at its first meeting during the 2006/7 municipal year, consideration will be given to the needs of the larger voluntary organisations such as CAB who annually apply for funds. Scrutiny of the service they provide to the public will be undertaken in order to make a better judgement about their financial needs.

4.1.8 Analysis of Walsall Illuminations

The panel reviewed some of the findings of the consultants appointed by the council to draw up a 5 year development plan and undertake a situational analysis for Walsall Illuminations. The final review document incorporating the

consultants' views is being prepared and will be submitted to an early meeting of the panel during the 2006/7 municipal year prior to submission to cabinet.

4.1.9 In addition the panel received information on the following issues:

- Performance and monitoring information
- Budgetary information
- First stop shop
- Deployment of youth workers

4.2 Children's services and Life Long Learning

The panel has considered a variety of issues from the work programme agreed at the start of the year. Key areas of work were:

4.2.1 Teenage Pregnancy

The panel received and endorsed a review document, produced by Councillor Rose Martin, that identified specific objectives in nine key areas and referred it to the cabinet portfolio holder for Children's Services, all head teachers, school governors, New Deal; WHG; Walsall Pregnancy Helpline; Youth Services and to the media for their comment and information.

The panel also received a report from Walsall tPCT in respect of data available to form the teenage pregnancy strategy and were updated quarterly as to the figures.

On a similar note, the panel was informed of the work of Walsall tPCT with respect to the provision of supported housing for young mothers and mothers to be in the borough. They were made aware that the service had no partners to support it except the provision of fourteen units provided by Caldmore Housing Group. The aim was to find an adequate site for this service as well as financial and other support. The panel were made aware that the service was a charitable fund and outside the jurisdiction of the local authority. It was not possible, therefore, to seek funding from the local authority. The panel were advised that capital funding had already been identified and that the revenue could be provided through the housing benefit, but the service was not being fully supported in Walsall. The panel asked to be kept informed of the work in progress and was subsequently informed of, and was able to inform, a number of possible sites and partners. Members were also informed of a strengthening of the Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board, who was looking at funding bids, and that they had completed the action plan generated by the feedback from the Government Office.

4.2.2 Corporate Parenting Strategy

Members were requested to consider undertaking visits to children's homes or to be contact in other ways with children in local authority homes. The emphasis would be on opening a dialogue with young people and staff, along with making use of the regulation 33 management reports, rather than delving into reams of information. It was suggested that members could become champions and advocates for children. The panel agreed that the visits were an excellent idea and that they should be open to all members of the council.

Officers provided two reports to advise members about the legalities and details and necessity for all those members to undergo a police check (CRB).

The panel recommended that all members of the council should be CRB checked. A subsequent cabinet report recommending that all elected members undergo enhanced CRB checks was endorsed by cabinet on 1 March 2006.

4.2.3 Children's Overweight And Obesity Report

Following the work of the joint working group on obesity, the panel received a report entitled "Childhood Overweight and Obesity - Scoping the Problem And Moving Forward" that aimed to set out the size and scale of the issues facing Walsall in tackling childhood obesity by examining; the best evidence available for interventions to prevent and treat childhood overweight and obesity; what is currently being done by Government and locally in Walsall to address these issues; and what more needed to be done.

Following discussions the panel endorsed the recommendations of the report and, in doing so, recommended that cabinet explore the opportunities for joint funding from Education Walsall, Walsall tPCT and Walsall Council for the obesity co-ordinators post.

At a subsequent meeting, Walsall tPCT reported that a meeting had taken place with partners and a plan had been drawn up with Education Walsall to collect and collate baseline data with a proposed completion date of April 2006.

4.2.4 Walsall Academy

The panel received information about the effect of Walsall Academy on its neighbouring schools and expressed concerns over the new white paper "Higher Standards, Better Schools For All", its implications and possible effect on the academy. A report on the white paper and its possible impact locally has been requested for a future meeting of the panel.

4.2.5 Procurement of major capital builds (education)

The panel, in private session, investigated the arrangements for the procurement of a major capital build and made recommendations that lessons learned should be embedded into council policy and procedure. These recommendations underlined the work already underway within directorates and were endorsed by cabinet.

4.2.6 Schools' Accessibility Audit Summary and Action Plan

Following consideration of the strategic review of disability working group report, the panel received a physical access audit summary report, including details of the process for monitoring schools' access plans.

It was highlighted that 24 schools were now up to standard and work was continuing with a further 34, although some schools may never be able to go beyond the minimum requirements due to physical layout of the properties. In such cases a flexible approach to school placements would be adopted in order to ensure that disabled children were placed in the most appropriate settings.

In considering the report the panel requested further details on the timescales for raising voluntary aided schools to the minimum standards for accessibility.

4.2.7 Working Groups

The panel also constituted two working groups looking at school buildings and the social inclusion agenda.

The school buildings working group focused on delays in priority one backlog repairs, addressing the reasons for the delays and teasing out lessons to be learnt for future financing and scheduling. The panel continues to monitor the progress of priority one repairs.

The social inclusion working group focused on scrutinising the multi-agency approach to children's care and received presentations on; the changed context of children's services in light of 'Every Child Matters' and recent Government legislation; issues around the attainment and care of looked after children; and health initiatives developed around the issue of social inclusion. A future work programme has been agreed to look at: the under-achievement of children of Pakistani / Bangladeshi heritage; the planning of the 'Fostering in the Black Country' event, October 2006; and the development of children's trusts. The panel agreed that the working group be constituted until 2008 to allow the tracking of the implementation of children's trusts.

4.2.8 In addition, the panel has:

- Received regularly monitored performance issues.
- Received information about the Annual Performance Assessment.
- Considered the budget and made comments and recommendations to cabinet.
- Received the annual report – social services complaints and representations

4.3 **Health and Social Care**

The panel commenced this year's deliberations by scoping its work programme and re-establishing its working groups and its health sub-committee. A variety of issues from the work programme were considered. Key areas of work were:

4.3.1 Health

The health scrutiny panel was re-established with full delegated powers to scrutinize the local health service. It scoped its own work programme and commenced consideration of issues from it. The health panel was unable to keep to its programme due to a number of national consultations which sought the views of health panels around the country. The panel was however, able to continue and conclude its review of the following issues:

- Access to mental health services
- Childhood overweight and obesity

The major review of access to mental health services which had commenced during the 2004/5 municipal year was concluded with the preparation of a review document setting out the panel's findings. An action plan was drawn up in collaboration with the tPCT to attempt to resolve some of the problems identified by the review. A number of those problems have now been addressed and the tPCT are working with this panel to continue to monitor those issues still outstanding. The review document and action plan is seen as a working document towards that end.

The joint obesity working group was re-established with representatives from the children's services and lifelong learning scrutiny panel to conclude its review of childhood obesity. A workshop took place in June 2005 which involved all the key stakeholders such as health workers, councillors, parents and teachers. Information needed to evaluate the best way forward to resolve the problems of childhood obesity in Walsall and to prepare an action plan was collected.

The consultant appointed to prepare the review document reported his findings to the panel in November 2005. The findings linked obesity to deprivation and ethnicity. It emphasised the need for an overall obesity strategy in the borough to be collated over the next few years. It recommended the establishment of a steering group to prepare a set of action plans for dealing with the issues raised in the review document.

The health panel was of the view that the findings should be referred to the children's panel to enable that panel to formulate a view and refer the findings to cabinet for appropriate action in conjunction with the tPCT.

The health panel agreed that the next topic of discussion for the obesity working group would be the problems surrounding adult obesity and that this review should commence during the 2006/7 municipal year.

The consultation documents set out below were also considered by the health scrutiny panel and the panel's views were submitted to the tPCT and the Strategic Health Authority as appropriate.

- Palliative Care Strategy for Walsall
- Commissioning a patient led NHS
- Improving older people services – Gosscote Hospital
- A framework for patient and public involvement within Walsall
- Health Care Commission Annual Health Check
- Developing a medium secure mental health services for men in the West Midlands.
- Configuration of SHA; PCTs and Ambulance Service.
- Director of public health annual report
- Future configuration of mental health services in the Black Country.
- Configuration of health services in the Black Country.

Council in July 2005 established a time limited scrutiny panel to receive information from the NHS trust boards of Walsall and New Cross Hospitals on their proposals for the future delivery of hospital services in the borough. Following further deliberations with PCTs the Strategic Health Authority decided to review the proposals previously published. This resulted in the council deciding that there was no longer a role for the time limited panel which was subsequently disbanded.

The health panel was tasked, following the disestablishment of the "Time Limited Scrutiny Panel" with continuing the joint review of the configuration of health services in the Black Country. The health panel nominated the representatives from Walsall who would sit on the joint scrutiny panel with other affected local authorities. Following the consideration of the published consultation document, other affected local authorities have agreed that the proposals are not a substantial variation of services and therefore do not warrant joint scrutiny arrangements.

The health panel having discussed the proposals is also of this view, although it was recognised that some joint discussions may be necessary. The panel have also undertaken a site visit to the Manor Hospital to view the neonatal and paediatric services currently available, these services being the main object of the proposals, and to seek the views of clinicians about the future proposals.

The discussions on this issue are continuing to enable the panel to submit its comments to the Black Country Implementation Board before 19 May 2006.

The consultation on the future configuration of mental health services in the Black Country has recently commenced and is being considered as a potential issue for joint scrutiny with other local authorities.

4.3.2 Social Care

The health and social care scrutiny and performance panel re-established its two working groups to enable the completion of the work commenced during the 2004/5 municipal year:

4.3.3 Modernising Services working group

The working group reviewed the progress of learning disability services following the completion of the review document on day care services. An “easy read” version of the review document was submitted to the Learning Disability Partnership Board. The working group also established that a modernisation plan for the learning disability service would be available in April 2006. The working group will continue to monitor the progress of the service.

The working group has recently been reviewing the provision of an independent living centre in the borough. Having visited a beacon service in Sandwell and expressing support for a similar service in Walsall, the work group supported the arrangements for a similar service to be provided at Tameway Tower building in Walsall and is continuing to monitor its development.

The modernising services working group also received information on redesign of older peoples services and development of integrated services.
the Issues listed below:

4.3.4 CPA Housing Improvement Plan Joint Working Group

The joint working group with regeneration, environment, housing and community safety scrutiny panel continued its review of the improvement plan. Members also received information on action taken to improve housing services such as mystery shopping by specially trained tenants. The draft improvement plan was also submitted to members.

At a meeting of the working group in January 2006, information was submitted relating to the results from the council’s CPA categorisation. Members were advised that Housing had received a CPA score of 3 (good) which was a considerable improvement from 2003 and 2004. It was recognised that as the original remit for the group was to monitor progress of the plan up to and immediately beyond an inspection, the remit of the group had been fulfilled. Following a request from the working group the panel agreed to disband this working group.

4.3.5 Community Meals

The panel continued its review of the community meals project to which it had contributed during the 2004/5 municipal year. Following the panel’s recommendations at stage 1 of the procurement process to include the provision of daily hot, as well as frozen meals, cabinet had endorsed this as a way forward.

The panel having reviewed stage 2 of the project and having invited comments and received evidence from stakeholders, including trade unions, welcomed the flexibility now introduced into the proposals. Members were also assured by many aspects of the proposed tender specification and expressed support for an in-house bid. The review will continue as the procurement process progresses.

4.3.6 Redesign and Re-provision of older peoples services

A review of the procurement process for the redesign of older people's services has recently commenced and the panel have received evidence from stakeholders as well as trade unions. The panel will be reviewing the progress of the project at its next stage of development when a report is received in September 2006 to identify the preferred bidder and the options for the service.

The panel received information and submitted views on a number of other strategic issues including national consultation documents as set out below:

- Adult Social Care services – delivery and improvement statements
- Independence, well-being and choice –consultation on green paper
- Financial and performance monitoring position of Social Care
- Budget Update 2006/7
- Review of fairer charging policy

4.4 Regeneration, Environment, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny and Performance Panel

During the year the panel has considered a variety of issues from the work programme agreed at the start of the municipal year. Key areas of work were:

4.4.1 Walsall Market Improvement Programme

The panel received a presentation on the best value review of Walsall Market, undertaken between February and July 2005, advising that the review had concluded that the market service should remain in council control, whilst making a range of recommendations for service improvement across the full range of service activity. The key points of the improvement action plan were outlined as: -

- Action plan based on review recommendations
- Consultation with staff and traders
- Report to cabinet

At a further meeting the panel discussed various issues around the present and future aspects of Walsall market and agreed that a task and finish working group be established to investigate ways to move forward for markets within the borough and that a report detailing the current position of Walsall markets and suggested ways forward, be brought to the first meeting of the relevant scrutiny panel in the new municipal year.

4.4.2 Quarterly Monitoring of Environment Improvement plan

The panel was presented with the environment improvement plan outlining: the current position relating to the preparation of the car parking strategy; the option appraisal for highways maintenance and the traffic management scheme utilities.

At a subsequent meeting the panel received the updated plan which highlighted that all, bar those issues delayed by central Government, were meeting expected targets. The panel resolved to pass their concerns to the leader of the council regarding performance measures, resulting from Government delays which were beyond the control of the council.

4.4.3 The Community Wardens Service

Councillors had called in the decision to cease funding the service by cabinet because of concerns regarding the lack of evaluation and consultation with the public, police and wardens, and also the consequences of providing a reduced warden service.

Following extensive discussion the panel recommend that officers consult with partners, through the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership, regarding possible

additional contributions to the Community Wardens Service and to report back to a further meeting.

At a subsequent meeting the panel was informed that there was no further funding available through the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership but that due to the reprioritising the Local Area Agreement during its final setup phase, sufficient funding for 50% of the service had been found until March 2007.

At a further meeting the panel resolved that a report on the proposed street champion scheme be brought to the first meeting of the relevant scrutiny panel in the new municipal year 2006/7. This report to focus on how the scheme will be funded; how the training of the champions will be facilitated and funded; and the level of sustainability built into the scheme.

4.4.4 Local Authority Business Growth Initiative (LABGI)

The panel were invited to recommend funding priorities in light of the framework for LABGI investment. The panel were informed that the use of LABGI funding was not ring fenced. Government guidance stated that it was for local authorities to decide how the reward was spent, but they specifically stated that “Every local authority now had a direct incentive to promote enterprise, employment and the growth of small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the local community and the freedom to influence local outcomes”.

Following a general discussion on possible schemes, the panel recommended that cabinet utilise LABGI funds to facilitate the roll-out of the garden waste collection scheme and to increase the provision of community wardens across the borough.

4.4.5 Working Groups

The panel also constituted three working groups looking at regeneration, car parks strategy and telecommunications masts.

The regeneration work group produced a report, to the full panel, which had found that there was a need to link key elements when considering the long-term plans for regeneration and transportation and take into account the human factors of employment, choice of where to work and live and funding opportunity to enable more creativity within regeneration initiatives.

The group had found many cross-cutting issues such as: transportation; buildings; physical regeneration; development; employment; and social activities, but there was not an overarching group or strategic body to co-ordinate major projects and to ensure the best way forward for the borough over a period of time. The group also drew attention to the potential of the accessibility planning software as a corporate tool for regeneration and forward planning. The panel agreed to note the report.

The Car Parking Strategy working group was established to investigate staff car parking, following an initial scoping exercise, a questionnaire was circulated to staff with a purpose of evidence gathering for the review to feed into the car park strategy.

The report made specific recommendations and informed an action plan for improving the management of parking for council staff. The findings from the report were endorsed by the full panel and fed directly into the overall review of parking for Walsall and the group agreed to reconvene early in the financial year 2006/07 to review the findings from the overall parking study and feed directly into the development of a new parking strategy for Walsall.

At a subsequent meeting, officers reported that the car parks strategy document was now back from the consultants and suggested that scrutiny may wish to look at the issues arising from it, such as looking at the distribution of car parks around the borough. The panel agreed and requested that the car parks strategy be addressed at the first meeting of the relevant scrutiny panel in the new municipal year 2006/7.

The telecommunication masts working group concluded their review of this matter and submitted a report with a range of recommendations including: the Local Neighbourhood Partnerships considering the roll-out plan for telecommunications equipment; to consider passing information to the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership Theme Group to raise awareness of the issue; the adoption of new guidance notes for planning applications for the telecommunication operators; a request that Serco advise school governors of the requirement for telecommunication operators to consult when making a planning application close to schools; and that mobile phone recycling initiatives be developed in Walsall in conjunction with mobile phone operators and businesses.

The group extended their remit, at the request of the portfolio holder, to give consideration to a proposition from British Telecom related to 3G telecommunication network in Walsall town centre. Following several meetings, with BT officers and partners, to clarify the issues the group recommended that cabinet proceed with a contract for the installation and hosting of telecommunications equipment subject to;

- All upfront legal and contract development costs being met by BT.
- All operational costs that the council and its lighting PFI partner (AMEY) may incur being met by BT.
- All additional risks being identified and managed through the contractual arrangements.

A report setting out the working group's recommendations has been drafted and will be submitted to cabinet shortly.

The leather heritage conservation area working group held a meeting where it was stated that the fundamental issue was the regeneration of the area whilst maintaining the preservation of the heritage within the area. Members agreed that it was imperative that the process move forward in a spirit of co-operation. In light of this, officers suggested that the designation of a conservation area might not be the only way forward and proposed that, instead of a conservation area, agreement could be sought on the local listing of identified buildings. During this period a supplementary planning document could be drafted. This would help secure the heritage within the area whilst not imposing further restrictions on redevelopment rights.

There was general agreement amongst members, stakeholders and officers that this could be a mutually agreeable course of action and a further meeting of the group would be arranged to discuss issues around specific local listing of buildings and contents of a proposed supplementary planning document.

4.4.6 In addition, the panel has:

- Received regularly monitored performance issues and held a workshop to gain an over view of how Walsall Council monitors and makes improvements to its performance
- Held two special meetings to consider the budget and made comments and recommendations to cabinet
- Monitored the Planning best value review improvement plan

- Received a report on the open space recreation supplementary planning document
- Been briefed about the Local Area Agreement (LAA)
- Received a presentation on the Darlaston strategic development area
- Received a presentation on the Walsall strategic corridor
- Monitored the crime and disorder best value review
- Received a presentation on the black country study, managed by the Black Country Consortium, to promote the regeneration of the four Black Country Boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton
- Received a presentation on the West Midlands Transportation plan 2005/06 to 2010/11.

4.5 Resources and Performance Scrutiny and Performance Panel

In scoping its work programme for the year the panel agreed to concentrate on four key areas:

4.5.1 Performance Management

In addition to receiving performance reports for monitoring the panel considered the format of performance monitoring reports, particularly the Beacon Index. They considered whether the presentation of information was clear and concise, and whether the information included represented the council vision and priorities. The panel concluded that the format of the Beacon Index report was fit for purpose providing the content, in terms of performance indicators, continued to reflect council priorities.

The panel also received the quarterly monitoring report of the CPA improvement plan and information regarding the performance review of scrutiny prior to the commencement of activity.

4.5.2 Finance Information

The panel were involved in budget consultation at budget decision conferencing events and made recommendations on the draft capital programme 2006/07 – 2010/11 and the draft corporate revenue budget 2006/07 – 2010/11.

The panel received information on the dampening effect of the draft revenue settlement and agreed that cabinet and officers should continue to pursue all possible avenues of additional funding due to the impact the dampening of the draft revenue settlement would continue to have on 'invest to save' schemes.

It also considered each item not included in the draft cabinet report and whilst it supported some decisions of cabinet, also made further recommendations on other items.

4.5.3 Value for Money (CPA) Work Group

Following discussion regarding the changes under 'CPA 2005 The Harder Test' the panel decided to establish a work group to consider the requirements of the value for money (vfm) element of the use of resources assessment. In completing this work the work group have considered the corporate benchmarking strategy and the 2006 service plan template. Members were keen to see how both benchmarking and the revised service plan template were received by services and how effective they were in assisting services to demonstrate vfm.

Members of the work group have met without officers to conduct research having considered vfm key lines of enquiry and audit commission profiling information, members worked to develop a vfm assessment framework. In April they will recommend to the panel the adoption of this vfm assessment framework and that all panels be encouraged to conduct a vfm assessment as part of their work programme on a continuous basis. Members felt such work was vital for the council to deliver the efficiency agenda and in demonstrating member involvement in vfm in the widest sense.

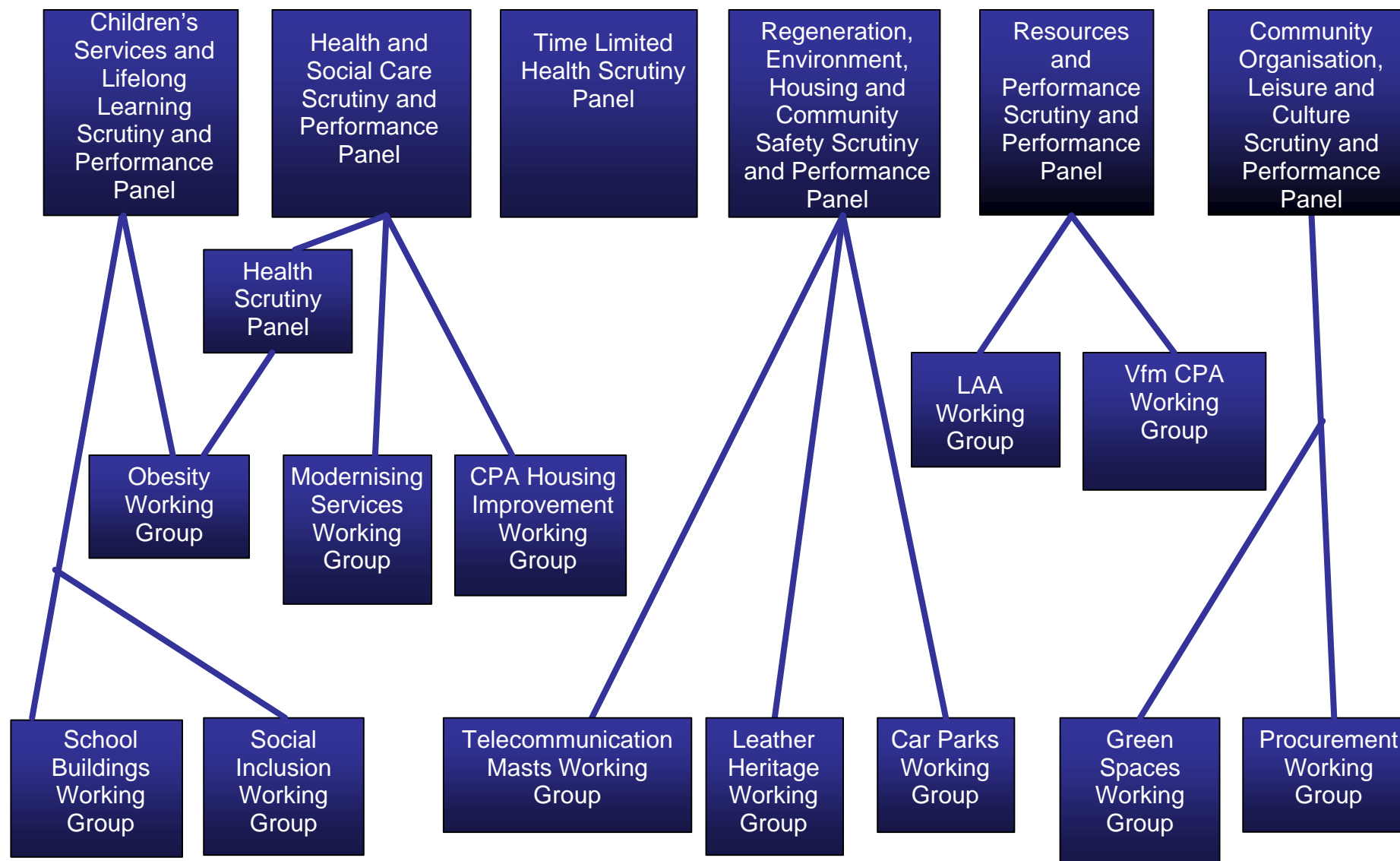
4.5.4 Local Area Agreement (LAA) Working Group

Recognising the importance of the LAA to the town the panel established a work group to consider the process used for developing the agreement and the performance management arrangements for the LAA. Members discussed at length the role of LNPs and also attended regional and national seminars about the LAA process. Having concluded that the process used in drafting the LAA was inclusive and fit for purpose the panel also considered and provided feedback on the ODPM consultation regarding LSPs and the role of scrutiny. Members requested that they receive more information in the future on the role of the member in the LSP and that the group should continue to receive information to enable them to remain engaged. Members requested that scrutiny should have a formal role, which will be determined following the recent ODPM consultation.

4.5.5 Member folder pilot

The panel received a pilot of member folders and informed changes and improvements to the folders to enable them to be distributed to other panels in the new municipal year.

Scrutiny Panel Organisation Chart 2005 / 6



SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY ACTIVITY 2005/6 MUNICIPAL YEAR					Last updated:	01/05/2006	
DETAILS	NOTE NUMBER	COMMUNITY ORGANISATION, LEISURE AND CULTURE	RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE	REGENERATION, ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY	CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LIFE LONG LEARNING	HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	SPECIAL TIME LIMITED HEALTH SCRUTINY
MEMBERSHIP & MEETINGS							
Chair		Towe	Sanders	I.Shires	Bird	Oliver	Arif
Vice Chair		Philips	Sahori	Arif	E.E. Pitt	Walker	Robertson
Number of Members	1	9	9	9	16	9	9
Number of Meetings	2	17	9	11	9	8	4
Meetings x Members		153	81	99	144	72	36
Apologies/Substitutions	3	26	5	26	31	15	4
Absences	4	24	6	13	29	8	2
Attendance rate	5	67.32%	86.42%	60.61%	58.33%	68.06%	83.33%
Number of meetings of sub groups.		8	10	10	6	15	0
AGENDAS							
Number of agenda items	6	33	21	33	28	22	8
Average agenda items per meeting		1.9	2.3	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.0
CALL-INS							
Number of call in meetings		1	0	1	0	0	0
Subjects of call ins:		Putting the Citizens First		Community Safety Wardens			
Outcome of call ins:		The breakdown and finish of negotiations with regard to the "Putting the Citizen First" Project (a)Covering report from the Leader of the Council (b)Cabinet report of 18 January 2006 (c)Any report from the meeting of the Community Organisation, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny and Performance Panel to be held on 31 January 2006 – (considered in private session) ~ That the decision of Cabinet be noted		That the Regeneration, Environment, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny and Performance Panel recommend that officers consult with partners, through the Safer Walsall Borough Partnership, regarding possible additional contributions to the Community Wardens Service and to report back to a further meeting of the above panel, following 3 March 2006 but before 21 March 2006, to discuss how the scheme can be funded in the transitional period before the implementation of the new Police Community Support Officer scheme.			
SUB-GROUPS							
Number of sub groups		4	2	3	2	4	0
Titles of sub groups							
		Disability Strategic Review	CPA Use of Resources	Car Parks	School Buildings	Health	
		Community Association	LAA / LPSA	Telecommunications Masts	Social Inclusion	Obesity	
		Green Spaces		Leather Heritage		Modernising Services	
		Procurement				CPA Housing action plan	
RECOMMENDATIONS							
Recommendations to cabinet:		1. 30/11/2005 Strategic Review of Disability Review		2. 21/12/2005 Review of Mobile Telecommunication Masts See			
See attachments 1-5 of this appendix for details.		3. 18/01/2006 Recommendations following Budget Consultation	3. 18/01/2006 Recommendations following Budget Consultation	3. 18/01/2006 Recommendations following Budget Consultation	3. 18/01/2006 Recommendations following Budget Consultation	3. 18/01/2006 Recommendations following Budget Consultation	
		4. 08/02/2006 Recommendations following Budget Consultation	4. 08/02/2006 Recommendations following Budget Consultation	4. 08/02/2006 Recommendations following Budget Consultation	4. 08/02/2006 Recommendations following Budget Consultation	4. 08/02/2006 Recommendations following Budget Consultation	
		5. 22/03/2006 Strategic Review of Community Association Funding					
Outcome from cabinet	1	Resolved: (1) That the findings and recommendations of the Strategic Review of Disability as set out in the report be noted. (2) That the officer progress and advice as set out in the report be noted.					
	2	Resolved: That the report be noted					
	3	Resolved: That the recommendations of the scrutiny panel be noted					
	4	Resolved: That the recommendations be noted and scrutiny panels thanked for their contributions					
	5	Resolved: (1) That the Cabinet thanks the COLC Scrutiny Panel for the work that it has done on this review. This is an example of scrutiny working productively and helpfully on important issues. (2) That Cabinet supports a number of recommendations. In particular, recommendations 1,3,4,5 and 7 reflect very much the way it is hoped that the Community Associations will develop in the future. (3) That Cabinet endorses wholeheartedly the focus of the scrutiny panel on the need for quality control and for community associations to establish stronger links with local neighbourhood partnerships. Governance arrangements regarding funding have never been stronger or as important. (4) That Cabinet reaffirms its decision of only funding activities that meet the criteria for Transforming Youth Work and insisting on quality provision from trained youth workers, which has paid off and resulted in the very positive feedback received from the Government Office for the West Midlands. (5) That Cabinet requests community associations to consider the two key challenges which face them: firstly to address this historic over reliance on council funding for those services, beyond the statutory youth service, which they wish to provide, and secondly to demonstrate the real impact of their activity in local communities. The Council is now entering a Local Area Agreement with the government, which sets out demanding targets for improvements in the local economy, health and children's services and for creating safer, stronger communities. The focus must be on the things that really make difference in these areas and all community associations are invited to consider how their activities from now on can really contribute to help meet these demanding targets.					
Number of site visits	7	1	0	0	1	3	0
Public engagement	8	1	0	3	1	1	0

NOTES

1. Substantive members including chairs and vice chairs.
2. Number of meetings including specials and calls ins but not meetings of sub groups.
3. Total number of apologies and/or substitutions of substantive members (nb an apology and substitution in relation to the same member at the same meeting counts as 1).
4. Total number of members not attending and not offering apologies or substitution.
5. Attendance rate for substantive members of the panel.
6. Agenda items excluding apologies, substitutions, party whips, minutes and the work programme update.
7. Visits away from the council house.
8. Public Engagement (ie: speaking of residents, members of the WMBC public).

1. Strategic Review of Disability – Recommendations to Cabinet

Disability in Employment:

1. The supernumerary scheme be re-launched by the HR Department. Funding be sought to increase the number of places on the scheme in the financial year 2006/7.
2. Training for managers be expanded and ongoing to further increase managers awareness of disability issues in order to increase the number of disabled employees employed by the authority.
3. A joint working group be established to include organisations such as WMBC, WHG, Serco, Manor Hospital and the Police to share best practice and to further increase the opportunities for disabled people in the borough.
4. That at the Job Shop live event on 23 July 2005 officers seek to establish the public's perception and particularly the perception of disabled people of barriers against accessing employment with the Council.
5. Approach the Local Strategic Partnership to seek funding to invite a professional into the LNP's disability focus group meetings to facilitate a discussion in order to obtain a true picture of the public's perception of barriers that exist in accessing employment.

Disability and Communications:

6. Reminder guidance be distributed to all textphone services within the Council, ensuring staff are able to use the systems. Introduction of TextBox as a superior system.
7. That Cabinet be requested to agree that officers actively consider the use of video phone technology to link the council services and service users in the borough and in doing so request that officers explore government funding opportunity and how other authorities use video phone technology.
8. To recommend that the scrutiny panel receive an overview of the findings of the report re: Interpretation and Translation service prior to it being presented to Cabinet to ensure the recommendations provide a consistent quality of provision and sufficient information.
9. A voluntary based database be created to capture disabled employees' requirements relating to the format of information passed to them, working with the Disabled Employees Network.

Physical Access to Services:

10. That all Physical Access work books be submitted to officers in September 2005 and a report detailing the progress made be submitted to Community Organisation panel at its meeting 8 December 2005.
11. That a facilities manager be identified for each of the authority's buildings.
12. That Cabinet note the need for more urgent action to ensure the allocation of the funding that had been made available and request an explanation and the reasons why the funds were not applied for originally be identified and addressed.
13. Confirmation that the matter of Facilities Management is appropriately addressed by the Putting the Citizen First Partnership.
14. A physical access audit summary report including details of the process for monitoring schools access plans be requested from Education Walsall and that a copy be provided to the Chairman of the Children's Services and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny and Performance Panel.
15. That a monitoring and tracking system be created to monitor the outcomes of the audit and that action is being taken on these outcomes.

2. Review of Mobile Telecommunication Masts – Recommendations to Cabinet

That the Telecommunications working group recommends that the Regeneration Environment Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny and Performance Panel consider the contents of the report and make recommendations to Council as set out 1-10 below:

1. That Local Neighbourhood Partnerships be requested to include an item on their agenda in October/November each year to consider the roll-out plan for telecommunications equipment to give them an influencing role of preferred site options.
2. That Local Neighbourhood Partnerships be recommended to invite the mobile phone operators to the meeting to give a brief presentation on the types of equipment available to enable members' opportunity to gain a greater understanding of alternative equipment and its usage.
3. That the issues raised about the misuse of mobile phones should be brought to the attention of the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership theme group to raise awareness of the issue and for the group to give consideration to the development of a policy to deter misuse of mobile phones in schools, colleges and youth facilities across the Borough.
4. That the Council endorses the adoption of new guidance notes for planning applications from the telecommunication operators.
5. That council request that :
 - (i) SERCO advise school governors of the requirement for telecommunication operators to consult when making a planning application close to schools.
 - (ii) SERCO be advised of the growing problems of misuse of phones and requested to consider possible preventative actions.
6. That the Executive Director for Neighbourhoods be requested to develop mobile phone recycling initiatives in Walsall, in conjunction with mobile phone operators and businesses
7. To note that Scrutiny Panel welcomes Cabinets decision to support the Local Government Association in its campaign to remove permitted development rights from the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 and requests that Walsall Council join any future Local Government Association lobby relating to the effect of Telecommunication equipment on health or the planning policy guidance.
8. To endorse current practice that Walsall Council follow the advice as set out in planning policy Guidance Note 8 Telecommunications in:
 - (i) not pursuing independent research or findings relating to the effect of telecommunication equipment on health, as this research is ongoing nationally and internationally and would be out of the reach of the Council to play any meaningful part in this process.
 - (ii) to encourage the development of a stronger working relationship and a greater understanding of the range of available equipment with a view to identifying potential suitable sites for the positioning of new mobile telecommunications base stations and in particular in the annual lead up to the roll out planning to identify potential sites for the positioning of mobile phone equipment in October / November.
9. That Cabinet be requested to give consideration to the feasibility of the use of Council land and buildings to site telecommunications equipment and in doing so considers the feasibility of potential use of 50% of revenue to capacity build Local Neighbourhood Partnerships funds for future re-investment in the local area.
10. To request that Council note that any actions resulting from this work will be monitored by scrutiny and fed into the end of year review of scrutiny to Council.

3. Recommendations from Scrutiny and Performance Panels following budget consultation (18.01.06)

Community Organisation, Leisure and Culture Scrutiny and Performance Panel - Recommendations

That cabinet consider the following recommendations of the panel as stated below and determine whether to accept these:

- (a) That investment bids categorised as of “high priority”, shown in **Appendix 1** be recommended to cabinet for consideration.
- (b) That cabinet ensure that the Local neighbourhood Partnerships (LNPs) are adequately funded to assist in delivering the priorities of the panel.
- (c) That cabinet ensure sufficient support and resourcing to increase community cohesion, as well as engagement.
- (d) That in respect of investment bid 4, community associations (CAs) older peoples funding, that funding is given direct to CAs and not to LNPs, and that CAs are made accountable for this funding. In addition, that further funding be made available to support under 13 year olds, as well as those over 19 years.

Children’s Service and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny and Performance Panel – Recommendations

- (1) That cabinet consider the following recommendations of resources scrutiny panel as stated below and determine whether to accept these:
 - (a) That the panel recommends a council tax increase of 3% for 2006/7
 - (b) That the Children’s Service and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny and Performance Panel agree to pass forward the proposed investments with the following priorities:
 - a. Relative and friend carer allowances.
 - b. Direct payments support.
 - c. Contact and transport payments.
 - d. Planning support to produce integrated children’s plan.
- (2) That the Children’s Service and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny and Performance Panel agree to pass forward the proposed dis-investments.

Health and Social Care Scrutiny and Performance Panel – Recommendations

That this panel notes the projected net change to the council tax of £4,062 million pounds as set out in the document presented to the meeting and advises Cabinet that this panel wishes to make no further recommendations in respect of the bids proposed.

Regeneration, Housing, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny and Performance Panel – Recommendations

That cabinet consider the following recommendations of the panel as stated below and determine whether to accept these:

- (a) That investment bids categorised as of “high priority”, shown in **Appendix 1** be recommended to cabinet for consideration.
- (b) That efficiency options categorised as of “high priority”, shown in **Appendix 2** be recommended to cabinet for consideration.
- (c) That cabinet ensure that the LNPs are adequately funded to assist in delivering the priorities of the panel.
- (d) That efficiency bid number 5, reduction in revenue highways maintenance, is only approved if alternative funding is approved via the capital programme.

Resources Scrutiny and Performance Panel – Recommendations

That Cabinet consider the following recommendations of resources scrutiny panel as stated below and determine whether to accept these:

- (a) That investment bids categorised by resources scrutiny panel as “green”, shown in Appendix 1, be recommended to cabinet for consideration, in order of priority (3 stars to be first call on available resources, then 2 stars, then 1 star bids).
- (b) That all bids below a de-minimus of £75k not be recommended for funding, and that alternative funding of efficiencies be identified by directorates to allow these to go ahead.
- (c) That all efficiency options identified at Appendix 2 are approved, subject to the comments included in this report.

4. Recommendations from Scrutiny and Performance Panels following budget consultation (08.02.06)

Recommendations of the Children's services and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny and Performance Panel following Budget Consultation

1. That Cabinet revise the level of education capital receipt re-allocation for school buildings up from 10% to 20% in order to reduce to the cost of maintenance of the remaining educational assets within the borough.
2. That Cabinet develop a long term strategy to address upcoming priority one backlog repairs.

Recommendations of the Community, Organisational Leisure and Culture Scrutiny and Performance Panel following Budget Consultation

- 1 This Panel is disappointed that no finance has been allocated to the Olympic scholarship bid and would request that Cabinet utilise the remaining uncommitted balance on the earmarked reserve, if any, not used by community associations as a starting point for the scholarship.
2. This Panel is also disappointed that the money requested for community associations to support young people, and older people has not been allocated. Further the Panel registers its disappointment that the parkforce initiative is also not funded
3. While this Panel understands the loss of revenue grant as a result of the settlement it is disappointed that Community Organisation, Leisure and Culture services has been a major recipient of the budget reductions without this Panel being given the opportunity to look at possible saving within other services.

Recommendations of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny and Performance Panel following Budget Consultation

1. The Panel express their concerns to Cabinet about the £84k saving in respect of grants for voluntary organisations.

Recommendations of the Regeneration, Housing, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny & Performance Panel following Budget Consultation

1. That the Panel express its disappointment at Cabinet's response to their recommendation following this Panel's meeting of 25.11 05.
2. That the relevant Portfolio Holders and the Portfolio Holder for Resources be invited to the meeting of the Regeneration, Housing, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny and Performance Panel scheduled for 27.4.06 to discuss their budget proposals.

Recommendations of the Resources and Performance Management Scrutiny & Performance Panel following Budget Consultation

1. That Cabinet continue to make representation to Government about the loss of resources to Walsall resulting from the dampening arrangements in the new grant system and in particular the reduced ability to fund 'invest to save' schemes.
2. That Cabinet re-instate the garden waste collection scheme investment bid, to start part way through 2006/7, at a reduced cost of £60k, rather than £110k.
3. That Cabinet re-instate the investment bid of £200k for community associations.
4. That Cabinet fund the £260k in recommendations 2 and 3 above from general reserves **OR** by removing the £150k relative and friend carer allowances investment and funding the remaining £110k from general reserves.
5. That Cabinet support the litter hit squad investment of £90k on the basis that it can be self financing from charges.

- 6 That sponsorship and funding is sought from partners and from contractors on the Council's approved list of suppliers for their presence on the council website.
7. That all investment below a de-minimus of £75k not be recommended for funding and that alternative funding of efficiencies be identified by directorates to allow these to go ahead.

5. Strategic Review of Community Association Funding – Recommendations

The working group recommends that Community Organisation Leisure and Culture Scrutiny and Performance Panel note the work of the work group and consider making recommendations to Council

1. That the Cabinet continue to adopt a consistent approach to negotiating with Community Associations on a one to one basis
2. That Cabinet note the criteria for accessing Community Development funding to meet the vision 2008 and request that appropriate funding be identified for service provision for activities that are not covered by statutory criteria.
3. That Cabinet promote a closer working relationship between Local Neighbourhood Partnerships and Community Associations and encourage greater attendance at LNPs and participation in relevant theme groups if appropriate.
4. That appropriate quality control mechanisms are in place in all aspects of Community Association provision where Council funding is received.
5. That appropriate quality control mechanisms are in place in all aspects of Community Association provision where Council buildings are in use by CAs and that appropriate mechanism to protect the fabric of the building be put in place.
6. That funding to CAs continues at an appropriate level to service provision in activities which are not covered by statutory criteria.
7. That Cabinet recognise that if Community Association provision in the Community does not continue due to lack of funding or lack of staffing for specialist projects , the Councils vision priorities may not be achieved. Members indicated the importance of the Community based Community Cohesion agenda and the role that Community Associations play in the community.
8. That Cabinet is requested to ensure that management committees are in place within each community association; that appropriate training and advice be given to personnel and that regular meetings of these management committees are held.

DATE OF COMMITTEE	Community Organisation leisure and Culture	Themes								
		Budget	Performance Management	Strategy & Policy Review	Work Plan & Monitoring	Call-in	Further Information requested by members	Working Group Feedback	Training Opportunities	Key Discussions
16.06.05	Panel update									
	Proposed work programme									
	Establishment of work groups									
04.08.05	Citizens Panel – Presentation									
	Disability Strategy									
	Performance Information									
	Procurement									
	Deployment of Youth Workers									
	Parks and Green Spaces									
	Work Programme									
	Forward Plan									
28.09.05	Performance Management workshop									
06.10.05	Green Spaces work group									
	Procurement work group									
	Community Association work group									
	Council Funding to Voluntary and Community Organisations									
	Performance Management									
	Site Visit to One Stop Shop									
	Citizens Panel									
	Forward Plan									
15.11.05	Voluntary Organisation workshop									
23.11.05	Budget Conferencing									
05.12.05	Putting the Citizen First									
08.12.05	Green Spaces work group									
	Procurement work group									
	Voluntary Organisation workshop									
	Budget Information									
	Performance Management									
	First Stop Shop									
	Translation, transcription and human aids									
	Citizens Panel									
	Walsall Illuminations									
	Job Shop Live event									
	LNP distribution of funding									
	Forward Plan									
	Training Opportunities:									
	The Principles and Practices of Overview and Scrutiny									
	Presentation Skills									
	Negotiating Skills									
06.01.06	Citizens Panel workshop									
18.01.06	Citizens Panel workshop									
31.01.06	Call-in Putting the Citizen First Strategic Partnership									
02.02.06	Community Association work group									
	Green Spaces work group									
	Citizens Panel workshop									
	Budget Information									
	Sickness absence monitoring									
	Walsall Illuminations									
	Schools Disability Access Strategy									
	Forward Plan									
	Training Opportunities:									
	Local Government - Overview and Scrutiny explained									
10.03.06	Voluntary and Community Grant Applications workshop									
17.03.06	Walsall Illuminations workshop									
05.04.06	Green Spaces work group									
	Grant Application Workshop feedback									
	Illuminations Workshop									
	Green Spaces Strategy									
	Voluntary Organisations Grant Applications									
	Performance Management									
	Community Cohesion									

DATE OF COMMITTEE	Childrens Service and Lifelong learning	Themes								
		Budget	Performance Management	Strategy & Policy Review	Work Plan & Monitoring	Call-in	Further Information requested by members	Working Group Feedback	Training Opportunities	Key Discussions
30 06 05	Teenage Pregnancy									
	Forward Plan									
	Work Programme									
	Children's Food Bill - Parliamentary early day motion 1256									
08 09 05	Teenage Pregnancy									
	Support Housing for young mothers and mothers to be									
	Monitoring Report:									
	Social Care									
	Children's Performance Indicators									
	Corporate parenting strategy									
	Work Pogramme									
20 10 05	Forward Plan									
	Children's overweight and obesity report									
	Working Group Feedback:									
	School Buildings									
	Social Inclusion									
	Corporate parenting strategy									
	Progress and attainment									
28 11 05	Forward Plan									
	Budget Consultation									
19 12 05	Fibbersley Park									
22 12 05	Working Group Feedback:									
	School Buildings									
	Social Inclusion									
	Annual performance assessment									
	Teenage Pregnancy									
	Progress and attainment									
	Corporate parenting strategy									
	Beacon Index Q1 & Q2									
	Aldridge pupil numbers									
	Children's weight and obesity report									
	Forward Plan									
01 02 06	Budget Consultation									
16 02 06	Working Group Feedback:									
	School Buildings									
	Social Inclusion									
	Teenage Pregnancy									
	Progress and attainment									
	Corporate parenting strategy									
	Training									
	Forward Plan									
20 04 06	Working Group Feedback:									
	School Buildings									
	Social Inclusion									
	End of Year Review									
	Annual Report - Social Services Complaints and Representations									
	Schools Accessibility Audit Summary and Action Plan									
	Training									
	Forward Plan									

DATE OF COMMITTEE	Health and Social Care	Themes								
		Budget	Performance Management	Strategy & Policy Review	Work Plan & Monitoring	Call-in	Further Information requested by members	Working Group Feedback	Training Opportunities	Key Discussions
21.06.05	Scoping of work programme									
	Establishment of sub-committee and work groups									
	Feedback from work groups:									
	CPA Housing									
	Modernising Services									
	Assessment of Day Services for people with learning disabilities									
	Delivery improvement statement									
	Publications:									
	Scrutiny Champions Network									
	Healthcare Commission Strategic Plan 2005/8									
25.07.05	Forward Plan									
	Independence Well-being and Choice - Adult Social Care consultation document									
	Publications:									
	Adult Social Care Services - Follow up briefing report to the Delivery and Improvement Statement Report									
	Scrutiny Champions Network									
	Health Scrutiny Works									
	Health briefing									
21.09.05	Forward Plan									
	Redesign and Reprovision of Older Peoples Services									
	Financial and Performance Monitoring Report									
	Feedback from work groups:									
	CPA Housing									
	Modernising Services									
	Publications:									
	Special Time Limited Health Scrutiny Panel									
29.09.05	Forward Plan									
29.11.05	Community Meals									
06.12.05	Budget update									
	Fairer Charging Policy									
	Location of Short Breaks Unit for People with Learning Disabilities									
	Feedback from work groups:									
	CPA Housing									
	Modernising Services									
	Health Scrutiny Panel									
26.01.06	Forward Plan									
	Draft Capital Programme									
	Draft Corporate Revenue Programme									
	Feedback from work groups:									
	CPA Housing									
	Health Scrutiny Panel									
30.03.06	Forward Plan									
	Feedback from work groups:									
	Modernising Services									
	Health Scrutiny Panel									
	Re-provision of services for the elderly - Review of procurement process									
	Independent Living Centre									
	The Annual Report Social Services Complaints and Representations									

DATE OF COMMITTEE	Regeneration, Environment, Housing and Community	Themes								
		Budget	Performance Management	Strategy & Policy Review	Work Plan & Monitoring	Call-in	Further Information requested by members	Working Group Feedback	Training Opportunities	Key Discussions
06.07.05	Scoping work programme									
	Telecommunication Mast work group report									
	Planning Best Value Review Improvement Plan Monitoring									
	Publications:									
	Scrutiny Champions Network									
15.09.05	Forward Plan									
	Feedback from work groups:									
	Regeneration work group									
	Telecommunication Mast work group									
	Car Park work group									
	Black Country Study									
	Local Transportation Plan 2005									
	Planning Best Value Review Improvement Plan Monitoring									
	Crime and Disorder Best Value Review Plan Monitoring									
20.10.05	Performance Information									
	Forward Plan									
03.11.05	Performance Management Workshop									
	Feedback from work groups:									
	Telecommunication Mast work group									
	Car Park work group									
	Walsall Strategic Corridor									
	Markets Review									
	Performance Information									
	Quarterly Monitoring Environment Inspection									
	Forward Plan									
	Training Opportunities:									
	The Planning Process & Regeneration									
	Risk Management									
	Speed Reading									
25.11.05	Budget Update									
11.01.06	Feedback from work groups:									
	Telecommunication Mast work group									
	Car Park work group									
	Darlaston Strategic Development Agency (SDA)									
	Performance Information									
	Quarterly Monitoring Environment Inspection									
	Forward Plan									
	Training Opportunities:									
	Presenting at Council									
	Questioning and Listening Skills									
	Chairing Meetings									
26.01.06	Draft Capital Programme									
20.02.06	Draft Corporate Revenue Budget									
	Call-in Community Wardens									
23.02.06	Local Area Agreement									
	Darlaston Strategic Development Agency (SDA)									
	Open Space recreation supplementary planning document									
	Feedback from work groups:									
	Telecommunication Mast work group									
	Forward Plan									
	Training Opportunities:									
	Local Government Overview and Scrutiny Explained									
	Frontline Councillors and Decision Making									
	Questioning and Listening Skills									
16.03.06	Chairing Meetings									
	Community Wardens									
25.04.06	Budget Update									
	Local Authority Business Growth Initiative									
	Markets Review									
	Community Safety									
	Gallery Conservation Area									
	End of Year Review									
	Forward Plan									
	Training Opportunities:									
	Finding the Balance: meeting the needs of vulnerable people and promoting community safety									

DATE OF COMMITTEE	Resources and Performance	Themes								
		Budget	Performance Management	Strategy & Policy Review	Work Plan & Monitoring	Call-in	Further Information requested by members	Working Group Feedback	Training Opportunities	Key Discussions
22 06 05	Meeting Etiquette									
	Review of 04/05 work programme									
	Scoping new work programme									
	Forward Plan									
01 09 05	Work Group Feedback:									
	CPA Use of Resources									
	Local Area Agreement									
	Forward Plan									
	Panel Work Programme									
	Decision Conferencing									
13 10 05	Performance Management Portfolio									
	Work Group Feedback:									
	CPA Use of Resources									
	Local Area Agreement									
	Performance Monitoring Reports									
	Q1 Beacon Index									
	CPA Improvement Plan									
	Forward Plan									
30 11 05	Budget Conferencing									
15 12 05	Budget Conferencing									
20 12 05	Work Group Feedback:									
	CPA Use of Resources									
	Local Area Agreement									
	Decision Conferencing									
	Tracker Survey									
	Beacon Index Measure 1.3.1									
	Training									
	Performance Review of Scrutiny									
	CPA Use of Resources Report to Audit Committee									
	Performance Monitoring Reports:									
	Q2 Beacon Index									
	CPA Improvement Plan									
	Forward Plan									
	Panel Work Programme									
27 01 06	Recommendations following budget consultation									
	Draft Capital Programme									
	Draft Corporate Revenue Budget									
09 02 06	Work Group Feedback:									
	Value for Money (CPA Use of Resources)									
	Local Area Agreement and LSP consultation									
	CPA category and direction of travel statement report									
	Training									
	Member Scrutiny Folders									
	Performance Monitoring Reports									
	Forward Plan									
13 04 06	Work Group Feedback:									
	Value for Money (CPA Use of Resources)									
	Local Area Agreement and LSP consultation									
	Performance Monitoring Reports									
	Q3 Beacon Index									
	CPA Improvement Plan									
	Scrutiny Performance Review Briefing Note									
	Report to Cabinet on Beacon Index 2006/07									
	Update on Performance Information Management System (PIMS)									
	Forward Plan									