

DECISIONS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION

THE SCRUTINY STRUCTURE

- a) That in addition to the Scrutiny Commission the following Scrutiny Committees be appointed:
- **Children's Services**
[to scrutinise the Children and Young People's Service]
 - **Community Services**
{to scrutinise the activities of the Community Services Department including grant aid for community organisations but excluding the following activities:- Environmental Management, Rights of Way and Planning*}
*Regional and Strategic Planning to remain the responsibility of the Commission}
 - **Environment**
To scrutinise the activities of the Highways, Transportation and Waste Management Department and the following activities of the Community Services Department:- Environmental Management, Rights of Way and Planning }
 - **Adult and Health Services**
{to scrutinise the activities of the Adult Social Care Service and the activities of local NHS bodies}
- b) That the Resources Committee be abolished and its existing functions be undertaken by the Scrutiny Commission.
- c) That a panel be appointed to consider issues emerging from proposals by the Executive to ensure that the County Council is more responsive to local communities. Consideration be given at a later date to the need for a standing Scrutiny Committee.

SCRUTINY – OPERATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

- d) That the County Council could in certain circumstances act as the champion of the public in scrutinising the provision of public services by external organisations e.g. Post Office, Utilities etc.
- e) That a 5 member panel of senior members of the Scrutiny Commission be established to review the support and resources needed for the Scrutiny function of the County Council and the training requirements of Scrutiny members.
- f) That a panel be established at a future date to review the process of consultation by the County Council.
- g) That with regard to the future operation of Scrutiny, the following points outlined on Page 10 of the revised Green Paper (and set out as appendix to these decisions) be considered further.

EXECUTIVE/SCRUTINY JOINT WORKING

- h) That the Cabinet be asked to consider the establishment of joint working groups of the Executive and Scrutiny on issues such as Waste Management, review of secondary education and change management.

Green Paper on Scrutiny:

Summary of Proposals

General

- Leader to include future work in the Position Statement to Council rather than just work done
- Leader to give outline of year's programme in 'Queen's Speech' at start of Civic Year
- Leader be invited to review past year's work with Scrutiny Commission
- Commission and Leader (or SRG and part Cabinet) to discuss this programme
- Lead members and spokespersons to discuss year's programme for each committee
- Cabinet and Scrutiny to suggest topics for debate at Council, 'Green Papers' on future policy development
- Cabinet Forward Plan to contain issues and options for each issue

Committees and Commission

- Further work needed on detail of operations and responsibilities for each including where activities of the Chief Executive's Department best fit.
- Commission to be more proactive in monitoring the Authority and Executive
- Commission to be more engaged in policy formation
- Committees spokespersons to meet regularly to review agenda and deal with urgent matters, such as urgent consultations
- County wide Health Scrutiny to consist of only County Councillors, District Councillors invited on specific issues, local health reviewed by district forums

Panels

- Work to be done in shorter but intense duration, no more than three months or so
- Commissioned by relevant committee, approved by Commission via email
- Continue waiver of political balance, panels elect own chair, members outside committee welcome
- Panels to call expert witnesses and engage service users and general public
- Findings to be circulated, published and where appropriate communicated to press

Scrutiny Chairman and Spokespersons

- To meet regularly with officers and from time to time with cabinet lead member
- To review Committee agenda and where necessary take action on reports etc
- To be more proactive in the management of their committees and panels

Scrutiny Reference Group

- To meet regularly to review work of Scrutiny, occasionally with chairs and spokespersons.
- To meet with Leader and Leads to discuss future work programme and progress

Policy Development

- Earlier involvement on Scrutiny in development of policy, cross-party approach
- Joint discussion of work programme with Cabinet, development of Green Papers

Training and Support

- Develop expertise and knowledge through seminars, skills through training
- At present no dedicated Scrutiny unit, but this to be kept under review

Partnership and Local Area Agreements

- Further work needed to be done by Scrutiny Reference Group
- Commission to scrutinise these in interim

Community Engagement

- Service users, general public, community groups (elderly, ethnic minorities etc) and where appropriate geographic areas should be engaged in process of Scrutiny by invitation to relevant discussions on committees or in review by panels.
- Scrutiny Reference Group to carry out further work on this area

Special Responsibility Allowances

- These to be retained for Scrutiny chairs and spokespersons