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SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 28TH FEBRUARY 2007

SCRUTINY OF THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to ask the Commission to reconsider its previous decision regarding the arrangements for scrutiny of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) in the light of the establishment of the Community Engagement Scrutiny Committee.

Previous Decision of the Commission

2. At its meeting on 14th December the Commission received a report which outlined the views of the Scrutiny Reference Group on proposed arrangements for scrutiny of the LAA. The Commission agreed the proposals in the report which included scrutiny of the themes in the LAA as follows:-

Theme	Scrutiny Committee
Older People	Adult Social Care and Health Services
Health Issues	Adult Social Care and Health Services
Environment and Waste Management ('Cleaner and Greener')	Environment
Safer Communities	Commission
Stronger Communities	Commission
Economic Development	Commission
Children and Young People	Children and Young People's Service

Community Engagement Scrutiny Committee

3. The County Council at its meeting on 6th December established a Community Engagement Scrutiny Committee with the following terms of reference:-

- (a) To provide a point of reference for considering the role of the elected member as champion of the local community and make recommendations as to good practice.
 - (b) To review and scrutinise the development of the neighbourhood engagement policy.
 - (c) To review and scrutinise the implementation and operation of community forums and other proposals for empowering local communities, including the County Council's relationship with district, parish and town councils.
 - (d) To review and scrutinise the development of policies and procedures to ensure a flexible response to local needs of citizens and communities, including improved access for citizens to the County Council's decision making and scrutiny processes.'
4. The Community Engagement Scrutiny met on 4th January and at that meeting the view was expressed that it would be appropriate for it to consider progress on any themes within the LAA relevant to its work. It is the view of officers that the work undertaken under the theme 'Stronger Communities' falls within the terms of reference of the Committee. This option was not considered by the Commission on 14th December as it emerged subsequently.

Equal Opportunities Implications

5. Nil

Recommendation

6. The Commission is asked to review its previous decision concerning scrutiny of the LAA themes and indicate whether the Stronger Communities Theme of the LAA should be undertaken by the Community Engagement Scrutiny Committee.

Circulation under Sensitive Issues

Nil

Background Papers

Report on Scrutiny of the LAA to the Scrutiny Commission 14 December 2006
Minutes of the Community Engagement Scrutiny Committee 4th January 2007
Report of the Constitution Committee to the Council – 6th December

Officer to contact

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