
REPORT TO:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 11
DATE OF MEETING:	10TH DECEMBER 2008	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	PAUL SPENCER (EXT. 5722)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	DERBYSHIRE SCRUTINY LIAISON GROUP	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee approves formally the involvement of South Derbyshire District Council in the Derbyshire Scrutiny Liaison Group.
- 1.2 That the Committee comments on the draft Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Liaison Group.
- 1.3 That a recommendation be made to the full Council, to nominate a Member to serve on the Derbyshire Scrutiny Liaison Group.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To consider this Council's involvement in the Derbyshire Joint Scrutiny Liaison Group.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 At the last Meeting the Committee considered the first of the "Communities In Control" consultation papers. This consultation also covered implementation of the Overview and Scrutiny provisions in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 3.2 The consultation looked at enhancing scrutiny powers in relation to scrutiny of Local Area Agreement (LAA) partners and their delivery of LAA improvement targets. In particular, this concerned Overview and Scrutiny Committees requiring information from partner authorities, publication of scrutiny reports, recommendations and responses and the establishment of joint County and District Overview and Scrutiny Committees. It sought to raise the visibility of the scrutiny function as laid out in the Communities in Control White Paper.

- 3.3 In Derbyshire, the County Council has taken the lead on this initiative and a number of Officer meetings have been held to discuss the planned arrangements for scrutiny of the LAA. The County Council has now proposed the formation of a Derbyshire Scrutiny Liaison Group and the draft Terms of Reference for this Group are attached at Annexe 'A' for Members' consideration. The proposed membership will comprise one nominated Member and one Officer from each authority, with substitute provisions. The Terms of Reference set out the intention for partner authorities to collaborate in relation to the exercise of their scrutiny functions and the primary focus will be on effective scrutiny of the Local Area Agreement, associated targets and the contribution of stakeholders and partners into this. The Liaison Group will also facilitate the exchange of ideas, expertise, other areas of joint working and training opportunities. The autonomy of individual authority's scrutiny committees will be maintained.
- 3.4 The Committee is asked to consider its involvement in the Scrutiny Liaison Group, whether it wishes to comment on or propose amendments to the draft Terms of Reference submitted and to consider making a formal recommendation to the Council to nominate a Member and substitute to serve on this Liaison Group.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report.

5.0 Corporate/Community Implications

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report.

6.0 Background Papers

- 6.1 Correspondence from Derbyshire County Council, including draft Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Liaison Group