
REPORT TO:	COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM: 15
DATE OF MEETING:	22ND JANUARY 2009	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	PAUL SPENCER (5722)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	SELF SCRUTINY BASELINE ASSESSMENT	REF: PDS
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That Council receives the Baseline Assessment from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has recently completed a self-assessment process and this report submits the findings for the Council's consideration.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee held a focus session in May 2008. Amongst the documents considered was a self-evaluation framework from the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS). Such documents aim to provide a mechanism for a Council to demonstrate the effectiveness of Overview and Scrutiny and to identify potential areas and means for improvement. Once completed, the framework provides a clear picture of how overview and scrutiny operates in an authority. This can then be used to:

- Communicate the potential of scrutiny to local communities;
- Encourage involvement in the process of those being scrutinised;
- Build confidence of those undertaking scrutiny activities;
- Demonstrate scrutiny's value to auditors and inspectors.

3.2 At the Committee's Meeting on 17th September 2008, Members were asked to give further thought to the CfPS self-evaluation framework, but it was acknowledged that this document was more suitable for councils operating under executive arrangements.

3.3 Officers subsequently adapted the document to make it more appropriate for South Derbyshire. A draft was circulated, to seek input from the Committee at its meeting in October and the document was then finalised at the Meeting on 10th December.

3.4 A copy of the completed Baseline Assessment is attached at Annexe 'A' for the Council's consideration. The document comprises four sections, reflecting the principles set out in the CfPS Good Scrutiny Guide:

- Provide 'critical friend' challenge
- Reflect the voice and concerns of the public and its communities
- Take the lead and own the scrutiny process
- Make an impact on service delivery

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 Background Papers

5.1 CfPS self-evaluation framework.