

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny

Date: 1 December 2008

Subject: Half yearly report on the work of the Committee

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive

Contact officer: Sue Johnson

Purpose / summary: To report on progress of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended:

Recommendation / decision: Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to comment on the progress made to date

Risks / Implications:

Financial: None as a consequence of this report, although the work of the Committee and its related Select Committees may have included recommendations which would have resource implications.

Staffing: None as a direct consequence of this report.

Policy: None required

Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?

Wards affected: All – the work of the Committee has wide ranging implications

Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation? No

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population? N/A

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure? No

Has the Director of Legal and Property Services confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution? **Yes**

Has the Director of Finance and IT confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? **Yes**

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **No**

For Cabinet reports only:

Categorisation of the report:	x
Discussion leading to a decision	
Monitoring	x
Sharing for corporate understanding	

	x
Discussion	x
Decision	
Information	

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
	1 December 2008		

Background Papers: Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2007-08; previous reports to the Committee during 2008-09

Proper Officer Sue Johnson

Date 21 November 2008

1. Background

At its meeting on 9 July 2008, the Committee referred its report for 2007-08 to Council for approval.

This report updates the Committee on its work during the 2008-09 municipal year.

2. Work of the Committee

2.1 *Items called in*

The learning from previous years has been put to good use and the Cabinet has generally ensured that major issues are considered by Panels and this Committee prior to any key decisions being taken. This has again reduced the number of items called in to two as follows:

Date	Item and O&S recommendations	Decision of Cabinet/Officer
14 July 2008	<p>New Building Schools for the future, Pathfinder, Abraham Guest High School - delegated approval of Agreed Maximum Price (AMP)</p> <p>Resolved: The Committee accepts the executive decision taken by the Director of Children and Young People's Services on 30 June 2008.</p>	<p>The decision had been taken by an Officer, the Officer was advised of the decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p>
11 August 2008	<p>Proposed exchange of interests and improvement works on land at and to the rear of 373/385 Wigan Road, Bryn, Wigan.</p> <p>Resolved: The decision taken at Minute 60 be referred back to the Cabinet with the following recommendations:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cabinet, or the Cabinet Champion for Organisational Change, be requested to visit the site, together with Ward Members and relevant Officers, prior to making its final decision; • The Cabinet then consider investigation of further options, including doing nothing; • The Director of Environmental Services be requested to consider how the development has been assessed against the Planning Policy Guidance 6 - Town Centres and Retail Developments (PPG6) 	<p>Resolved: The Cabinet:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • re affirms its previous decision taken at minute 60; • requests the Executive Director of Environmental Services to ensure that parking bays are for public use and that this be enforced accordingly; • requests the Executive Director of Environmental Services to ensure that the work to the car parking bays is carried out to the Council's standard and in a specific timescale; and • thanks the Cabinet Champion for Organisation Change

	<p>guidance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Members of the Overview and Scrutiny be informed of the outcome. 	for undertaking the site visit.
--	---	---------------------------------

2.2 **Select Committee work**

The Committee agreed that the following issues be examined:

- PACTs
- Recycling strategy
- Tendering

These Select Committees are reporting to this Committee on a regular basis.

The Health Select Committee will present its annual report to this Committee in June 2009.

The Committee has received final reports on the work of the previous Select Committees and a progress report on the recommendations of all the previous Select Committee reviews is awaited.

- Townships – the final report was submitted to the Committee on the 16 June 2008
- Reputation Management – the final report was submitted to the Committee on 6 October 2008
- Transport – the final report was submitted to the Committee on the 16 June 2008

2.3 **Forward Plan**

The Committee now receives a copy of the updated Forward Plan at each meeting. This has enabled members to look ahead and select issues for consideration ahead of the Cabinet making decisions.

2.4 **Items referred to this Committee**

2.4.1 The Committee considered the following reports, which had previously been considered by Cabinet:-

Date	Item
19 May 2008	Update on affordable housing development and housing policy
14 July 2008	Townships and participation in decision making.
14 July 2008	Review of Advisory Panels and Overview and Scrutiny Select Committees
8 September 2008	Budget timetable and principles 2010-11
8 September 2008	Medium term financial plan 2009-2012

2.4.2 The Committee considered the following report, an executive decision which had been taken by the Executive Leader;-

Date	Item
19 May 2008	Marsh Green primary school reduction to 1 form entry

2.4.3 The Committee has scrutinised the following issues prior to Cabinet's consideration or during the call in period:

Date	Item
19 May 2008	Introducing a fee policy for adult community learning
19 May 2008	Ince remediation
16 June 2008	The Association of Greater Manchester Authorities – new governance arrangements
16 June 2008	Parks and green spaces strategy
14 July 2008	Report of the Audit Commission – Land at Westwood Park
14 July 2008	Routes to involvement, a new approach to engagement
14 July 2008	Community cohesion – embracing change
11 August 2008	Wigan's Homelessness strategy 2008-2013

2.4.4 Cabinet will be meeting jointly with Overview and Scrutiny on the 11 December 2008 to consider the Housing Revenue Account – rent setting.

2.4.5 The Committee has also received reports the following reports:-

- Support services review – project closure document.
- Further consultation from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on changes to scrutiny.
- Adult safeguarding board – annual report and action plan.
- Consultation – election day – weekend voting.
- Wigan safeguarding board minutes.

3 Annual work plan: Work has commenced on an annual work plan for the Committee, however this process needs to be enhanced given the Committee's increased responsibilities. Members will be aware of the proposals currently under consideration in relation to the roles of the Advisory Panels. The outcome of the consultation and any changes to the terms of reference for Panels and Scrutiny Committees will need to be accommodated as a result.

4 Conclusions

This report presents to members an update on the work done so far during this municipal year. It is pleasing to note that the work of the Committee has become more proactive and that the Committee's views are sought ahead of key decisions being taken.

The full draft annual report will be presented to a future meeting in the new Municipal year prior to submission to full Council.

5 Recommendation

Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to comment on the issues considered to date.

