

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 14 July 2008
Subject: Annual report on the work of the Committee
Report of: Deputy Chief Executive
Contact officer: Sue Johnson

Purpose / summary: To report the work of the Committee for the 2007-08 municipal year

Recommendation / decision: Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to comment on the report and recommend its contents to Council.

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.

Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted? These are conducted as and when recommendations are taken forward

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 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**

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
	14 July 2008		3 September 2008

Background Papers: Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2006-07;
previous reports to the Committee during 2007-08

Proper Officer Sue Johnson

Date 3 July 2008

1. Background

At its meeting on 3 December 2007, the Committee referred its report for 2006-07 to Council for approval.

This report informs the committee of its work during the 2007-08 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 reduced the number of items called in quite considerably, from 15 in 2006-07 to three in 2007-08, as follows:

Date	Item and O&S recommendations	Decision of Cabinet
11 February 2008	<p>Proposal to temporarily extend Tyldesley Primary School Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agrees that the decision taken at Cabinet at Minute 263 is acceptable; • suggests that Chief Officers be informed that any addenda to an ongoing report should be incorporated within the revised report and not added at the end of the original report; • suggests that Chief Officers notify the relevant Panel if information that the Panel has previously considered is changed prior to being considered by the Cabinet; and • suggests that Chief Officers submitting reports to Cabinet factor in the dates for possible decisions being called in by this Committee. 	Cabinet notes the recommendation
17 March 2008	Westwood Park – Development Proposals See below	Cabinet notes the recommendation
17 March 2008	<p>Westwood Park, Chinagate Way Project – Heads of Terms Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • warmly welcomed the proposals • recommended that Cabinet ensure all press releases do not imply that a decision has already been taken • requests that this project brings maximum training and skill opportunities for local people; and • requests regular progress updates on the project 	Cabinet notes the recommendation. This call-in prompted further investigation by the District Auditor and a series of recommendations have been submitted to the Council to improve processes.

2.2 **Select Committee work**

The Committee agreed that the following issues be examined:

- Townships
- Transport
- Reputation Management

The Townships and Transport Select Committees reported to this Committee at its meeting on 16 June 2008. The recommendations will feature as part of the 2008-09 Annual Report of this Committee.

The Health Select Committee annual report is presented to this Committee elsewhere on this agenda. Again, its findings and recommendations will be incorporated into the 2008-09 Annual Report

The Committee has also reviewed some of the past work of the Select Committees and requested further reports as follows:

- Utilities – the Director of Environmental Services reported back to this committee on 11 February 2008
- Traffic Calming – the Director of Environmental Services reported back to this committee on 3 March 2008
- Invasive Weeds – a progress report was submitted to this committee at its meeting on 31 March 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 Cabinet or Officers making key decisions.

2.4 **Items referred to this Committee**

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

Date	Item
18 June 2007	Support Services Review
16 July 2007	Unreasonably persistent complaints
13 August 2007	Building Schools for the Future – Potential Procurement Partnership
8 October 2007	Local Involvement Network (LINK)
5 November 2007	Flag Flying Protocol
3 December 2007	New Governance Arrangements in Greater Manchester
14 January 2008	Consultation on Comprehensive Area Assessment
3 March 2008	Partnerships and Communities Together (PACT's)
3 March 2008	Consultation on Local Petitions and Councillor Call for Action

2.4.2 Cabinet has met jointly with Overview and Scrutiny on three occasions to seek the Committee's views on the following issues:

Date	Item
13 December 2007	Housing Revenue Account – Rent setting
7 February 2008	Joint Service Centre PFI project - Appointment of Preferred Bidder
25 February 2008	Capital Strategy Capital Project Appraisal Capital Programme 2008-09 and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities Housing Revenue Account Capital and Revenue Estimates 2008-09 Revenue Budget for 2008-09 and Medium Term Financial Forecast for 2008-09 to 2010-11

2.4.3 The Committee has also received reports on outcomes of statutory inspections, in particular:

- CSCI Annual performance assessment 2006-07
- Annual Performance Assessment – Children's Services 2007

3. Conclusions

This report presents to members the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the 2007-08 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. Committee may want to consider drawing up a work plan in the new Municipal year given its increased responsibilities.

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Committee is recommended to refer this report to full Council.

**Sue Johnson
Deputy Chief Executive**