

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Agenda Item 42

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Scrutiny Update
Date of Meeting: 19 October 2010
Report of: Acting Director of Strategy and Governance
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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report provides an update on scrutiny activity to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission (OSC). It has three components parts:
- An update on the scrutiny panel topics selected since the last OSC meeting (Appendix 1)
 - Comparative information on how scrutiny is functioning (Appendix 2)
 - A discussion paper on the co-option of a representative from the third sector onto OSC during the budget scrutiny process (Appendix 3)

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission:
- (1) Notes the scrutiny panel update (Appendix 1)
 - (2) Notes the benchmarking work from the CfPS Survey (Appendix 2)
 - (3) Agrees to temporarily co-opt a third sector representative onto OSC (Appendix 3)

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 At its last meeting OSC considered which, if any, scrutiny panels should be established following a public consultation undertaken during July. OSC agreed to establish panels into a 'Living Wage' and 'Information Sharing on Vulnerable People'.
- 3.2 Consultation responses were reported to other scrutiny committees with panels established on:
- Private Sector Agents
 - Renewable Energy
 - Music Industry

- 3.3 Appendix 1 lists all of the panels undertaken since May 2008 and progress made against them. There are currently six 'live' panels being supported by scrutiny officers.
- 3.4 Appendix 2 provides members with a short comparison of the scrutiny function in Brighton and Hove against results on the Centre for Public Scrutiny 2009 survey of local authorities.
- 3.5 Members will aware that various overview and scrutiny committees benefit from the expertise of co-opted, non-voting members representing a variety of organisations. Appendix 3 is intended as a discussion paper on the suggestion to co-opt a third sector representative to OSC for the budget discussions during December-January 2010/11.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The panel selection process involved extensive consultation with Members, residents and partner organisations.
- 4.2 Informal consultation has taken place with OSC Members and the CVSF with regard to co-option.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no financial implications as all work will take place within the existing scrutiny budget.

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon

Date: 7 October 2010

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Panels undertake an EIA during detailed scoping.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 A number of sustainability issues were raised as possible scrutiny topics, with one on renewable energy being progressed.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no direct crime and direct implications arising from this report.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The consultation exercise was undertaken to ensure that scrutiny resources are focused on the most appropriate areas. There is an opportunity for scrutiny to influence some of the key issues facing the city.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 Scrutiny panels attempt to take a city-wide view on issues rather than focusing purely on council services. The recommendation to co-opt a third sector

representative will also OSC to seek a wider range of views on the budget for 2011/12.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Panel Update
2. Comparative Benchmarking Information
3. Co-option Information

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None

