

## **SCRUTINY UPDATE REPORT**

*Report of the Scrutiny Support Officer, Clare Kaye*

Author: - Adrian Service, Tel. 01992 555564

### **1. Purpose of the report**

To inform Members of action taken on all scrutiny items chosen by the Committee.

### **2. Summary**

The meeting of the Scrutiny Co-Ordination Panel on 7 February 2003 agreed that:

*'The March 2003 cycle of Scrutiny Committees should receive update reports with brief details of every item considered by the Committee in question to enable the Committees to decide:*

1. *The item was finished; or,*
2. *The item should be included in a work programme for future attention; or,*
3. *The item should be the subject of regular updates.'*

Brief details of progress on all scrutiny items chosen by the Committee is contained in paragraph .

### **3. Conclusion**

The Committee is asked to decide if the scrutiny items listed are finished, should be included in the work programme or should be the subject of regular updates.

4. The following items have been scrutinised by the Resources, Prosperity, Partnership and Consultation Scrutiny Committee since October 2000.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Committee date</u>	<u>Effects of Scrutiny</u>	<u>Status</u>
a) Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring	19 / 10 / 2000	Report to each meeting	ongoing
b) Review of Performance Monitoring Information	19 / 10 / 2000	Report to meetings on approx quarterly basis. Traffic lights reports introduced	ongoing
c) Review of the Best Value Performance Plan	19 / 10 / 2000	Reviewed annually	ongoing
d) Review of Treasury Management	25 / 1 / 2001	Reviewed annually	ongoing
e) Community Strategy for Hertfordshire	25 / 1 / 2001	Reviewed as part of the promises.	
f) Recruitment and Retention of key workers	25 / 1 / 2001	Improved management information, including turnover & vacancy data collected on a geographical basis. Vacancy data is reported for key skills shortage areas. A revised leavers questionnaire has been piloted. Cabinet Policy Panel established.	
g) Service Property	25 / 1 / 2001	Work transferred to Property Panel on its formation.	
h) Corporate Procurement and Outsourcing Management	15 / 3 / 2001	The framework for corporate procurement and outsourcing was agreed and presented to all service boards. The principles have been used to inform the procurement decisions on major contracting decisions and the framework now forms part of the corporate procurement guidelines.	
i) Planning Obligations	15 / 3 / 2001	A Working Group to be established to scrutinise planning obligations. H M Government is due to publish new draft guidance on planning obligations in May 2003.	

<u>Item</u>	<u>Committee date</u>	<u>Effects of Scrutiny</u>	<u>Status</u>
j) Overview of European Issues	5 / 7 / 2001		
k) Voluntary Sector Funding	1 / 11 / 2001	Established central single HCC funding process single postbox, funding prospectus, timetable & application form. Training provided to increase ability of voluntary organisations to access advice.	
l) Review of Post Rooms	1 / 11 / 2001	Review complete, savings made.	finished
m) Promise Scrutiny 'Give local communities a better voice'	24 / 1 / 2002		
n) Promise Scrutiny 'Promote equality & improve access to our services, employment & buildings'	21 / 03 / 2002		
o) Promise Scrutiny 'Work with business to increase prosperity , protect jobs & improve standards of living for local people'	18 / 6 / 2002		
p) Promise Scrutiny 'Improve employment prospects for disadvantaged people'	31 /10 / 2002		
q) Scrutiny of Herts Direct Newspaper	31 / 10 / 2002	Scrutinised at meeting Officer editing arrangements to remain unchanged.	finished
r) Promise Scrutiny 'Give the public value for money by getting more cost efficient every year'	23 / 1 / 2003	Efficiencies project in preparation.	ongoing