

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SCRUTINY STEERING BOARD

8TH JANUARY 2008

SCRUTINY PROPOSALS

Responsible Portfolio Holder	
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services

1. SUMMARY

1.1 Members are asked to consider the scrutiny proposal forms received.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 Members of the Board are requested to decide whether or not the scrutiny proposals submitted should be included in the future work programme of this Board.

2.2 The Board also needs to agree the priority order of those scrutiny proposals which are to be added to the work programme.

2.3 Finally, Members will need to decide if they wish to establish a Task Group once one of the current Task Groups has been disbanded. (The Air Quality Task Group is due to be disbanded at the Scrutiny Steering Board Meeting in February, subject to the Cabinet's response to the Air Quality Report.)

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Under the current ways of working, any Member can request a subject is scrutinised by completing a scrutiny proposal form and their request can then be considered by the Scrutiny Steering Board.

3.2 The scrutiny proposal attached as appendix 1 relates to reducing teenage anti-social behaviour which was submitted by the Leader, Councillor Hollingworth. The Board considered this at its meeting in November when it was agreed that it should be deferred until the New Year when current Task Groups were closer to completing their scrutiny investigations.

3.3 The scrutiny proposal attached as appendix 2 came out of discussions held at the November Meeting where it was agreed that Councillor Duddy would complete a scrutiny proposal form relating to Alcohol Free Zones (a suggestion made by Executive Director – Partnerships and Projects)

- 3.4 The Board will remember that at the same meeting, it was agreed that Councillor Mrs. Bunker would complete a scrutiny proposal form relating to Older People (a suggestion made earlier in the year by the Assistant Chief Executive). Since that meeting, Councillor Mrs. Bunker has discussed the different options for taking this forward with the Assistant Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer. Councillor Mrs. Bunker has decided that her preference would be to set up a focus group during February/March 2008 (with the help of the Assistant Chief Executive) to find out the areas of concern from older people with a view to using the findings from a focus group to narrow down the specific issues that could be scrutinised. At that point, Councillor Mrs. Bunker may decide to submit a scrutiny proposal relating to older people.
- 3.5 This Board needs to decide whether or not the issues set out in appendices 1 and 2 should be scrutinised in the future.
- 3.6 If the Board decides to include either of these topics on the work programme as items they believe should be scrutinised, the Board should ensure they agree the priority order.
- 3.7 Assuming Members wish to scrutinise one (or both) of the proposals, the Board then needs to agree whether or not it wishes to establish a Task Group to scrutinise the issue. If Members are minded to create a Task Group, they can only do so as each of the current Task Groups are disbanded. The first Task Group due to disband at the next Board Meeting in February (depending on the Cabinet response to the Task Group's findings) is the Air Quality Task Group. The Public Transport – Buses Task Group is due to be disbanded in April and the Refuse and Recycling Task Group is due to be disbanded in May, subject to the Cabinet's response to the findings and scrutiny recommendations.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications directly related to this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications directly related to this report.

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 This report does not directly link to the Council objectives, however, it could be said that the scrutiny proposals link to sense of community and well being.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 There are no risk management issues directly related to this report.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no customer implications directly relating to this report.

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no implications directly relating to this report for the Council's Equalities and Diversity Policies.

10. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues – None
Personnel Implications – None
Governance/Performance Management – None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – None, however, two of the scrutiny proposals relate to community safety as well as Section 17 of the 1998 Act.
Policy – None
Environmental – None

10. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	N/A
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director – Partnerships and Projects	Yes
Assistant Chief Executive	Yes
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes

Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

11. **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Proposal Form submitted by Councillor Hollingworth.
Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Proposal Form submitted by Councillor Duddy.

12. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

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