

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
BOARD**

24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

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**PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY JOINT WORKING PROPOSAL**

Relevant lead Councillor	Cllr Geoff Denaro
Relevant Head of Service (for Overview and Scrutiny purposes)	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Ward(s) Affected	No specific ward relevance.
Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

This report outlines proposals from Members of Redditch Borough Council's Performance Scrutiny Working Group in respect of the Measures Dashboard Working Group.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Board is asked to **RESOLVE** that

- 1) the Overview and Scrutiny Board agree that in 2017/18 informal meetings should be arranged between the Redditch Borough Council Performance Scrutiny Working Group and Bromsgrove District Council's Measures Dashboard Working Group to share ideas and understanding of best practice in performance scrutiny; and
- 2) subject to the Board's agreement to (1) above, where both the Performance Scrutiny Working Group and the Measures Dashboard Working Group identify the same item from the dashboard as being suitable for further investigation this should be reviewed at a joint scrutiny meeting; or
- 3) the Overview and Scrutiny Board decline the offer to participate in either of the above.

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Background**

- 3.1 The Measures Dashboard Working Group was established in June 2016. The purpose of this group was to identify items that were suitable for scrutiny from the Council's measures dashboard. Members agreed when the working group was established that the outcomes of the group's work would be reviewed at the end of the municipal year and a decision would be taken at this stage as to whether it should continue to exist and this will be addressed during the Annual Report review.
- 3.2 At the same time at Redditch Borough Council the Performance Scrutiny Working Group was established to enable Redditch Members to undertake similar work.

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Like Bromsgrove Redditch Members agreed to review the operation of its working group at the end of the municipal year.

- 3.3 At a meeting of the Redditch Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> March Members considered a report outlining the outcomes of the Performance Scrutiny Working Group's activities throughout the year. During consideration of this report the Chair of the Group, Councillor Tom Baker-Price reported that the Group was aware of the similar focus of the Bromsgrove working group. Redditch Members felt that this presented opportunities for joint working.

Proposal 1 - In 2017/18 informal meetings should be arranged between the Performance Scrutiny Working Group and Bromsgrove District Council's Measures Dashboard (scrutiny) Working Group to share ideas and understanding of best practice in performance scrutiny

- 3.4 Members of the Performance Scrutiny Working Group believe there might be opportunities for Redditch Members to learn from Bromsgrove Members and vice versa in terms of scrutinising performance measures in the most effective manner. For this reason the group is suggesting that, subject to the agreement of Bromsgrove District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Board, informal meetings should be arranged between members of both groups in 2017/18.

Proposal 2 - Where both the Performance Scrutiny Working Group and the Measures Dashboard Working Group identify the same item from the dashboard as being suitable for further investigation this should be reviewed at a joint scrutiny meeting.

- 3.5 Redditch Borough Council shares the majority of services with Bromsgrove District Council. At both Councils the measures dashboard is used to monitor the performance of Council services. In many cases both the strategic measures and the operational measures on the dashboard are the same for both Councils, though the performance may differ due to variations in demand for services between the two local authority areas.
- 3.6 In these circumstances Members are aware that there may be occasions when both the Redditch Performance Scrutiny Working Group and the Bromsgrove Measures Dashboard Working Group may choose to investigate the same measures in further detail. When this occurs Redditch Members believe the option to undertake joint scrutiny meetings should be explored further. This would help to minimise the impact on staff workloads whilst helping Members to compare experiences and combine efforts to hold the performance of services to account.

**Financial Implications**

- 3.7 Joint scrutiny with Redditch Members, where similar measures are identified as suitable for investigation at both local authorities, would help to minimise the impact on Council resources. Officers would only need to attend one meeting to discuss

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the background to the measures, rather than two meetings, and would only need to follow up on actions arising from a combined meeting.

- 3.8 It is envisaged that if joint scrutiny of performance measures did take place in future the location of meetings for this purpose would need to alternate between Redditch and Bromsgrove. This would help to minimise the impact on demand for the civic suite at both Councils, potentially creating greater opportunity for these rooms to be hired by external customers to the benefit of Council budgets.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.9 No specific legal implications have been identified.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.10 The Overview and Scrutiny Board is asked to note that if the Measures Dashboard Working Group and Finance Budget Working Group continue to exist in 2017/18 Democratic Services would have capacity to support two Task Group or Short, Sharp Review exercise at any one time during the year. This would replicate arrangements in place in 2016/17.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.11 No specific customer, equalities or diversity implications have been identified.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

No specific risks have been identified.

**5. APPENDICES**

N/A

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Redditch Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Minutes held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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