

SCRUTINY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

Development Issue Identified:	Action:	Priority: (High, Medium and Low and Whether Urgent, or not)	Timescale:	Progress:	Completed: (If completed delete from future reporting)
9. Local Government White Paper – Strong & Prosperous Communities	Scrutiny Officer to consider the impact of the White Paper on future Scrutiny function at SBC	High priority and ongoing in terms of urgency.	SO to report to SOC 29 01 07 on possible implications of White Paper on Scrutiny.	<p>The Borough Solicitor has advised that the Local Government White Paper is unlikely to become an Act for about a year.</p> <p>However, there are more imminent issues for Scrutiny in the Police & Justice Act 2006 regarding statutory Crime & Disorder Committees.</p> <p>The Borough Solicitor will meet with the Chair and Vice-Chair to brief them on this issue.</p> <p>Deadline for introduction of new governance arrangements likely to be early 2008</p>	

<p>10. Mechanism for Monitoring Topic Group Outcomes</p>	<p>Scrutiny Officer to work up a mechanism for monitoring Topic Group Outcomes. Initially the Monthly SO report to SOC can be used for monitoring. See if this proves to be suitable.</p>	<p>Medium and not urgent (will become an issue when first few topic groups begin to deliver outcomes)</p>	<p>When 1st Topic Group reaches its conclusion Monitoring proposals be reported to SOC. Likely to be to SOC 19 02 07.</p>	<p>Two monitoring issues established by SOC. One is the monitoring of SOC's recommendations to Exec resulting from Topic Groups. The other is the Monitoring of Executive's Performance. Scrutiny Officer to discuss with SOC how SOC can achieve this.</p>	<p>Partially completed with monitoring of Topic Group progress and any subsequent recommendations of SOC to the Executive in the monthly SOC report.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>At the last SOC meeting 19 02 07 SOC stated that they were content with the current monitoring of Executive's Performance. This item can therefore be deleted from the list</p> <p style="text-align: center;">✓</p>
<p>11. Pre-Scrutiny of Rolling Programme of Key Decisions</p>	<p>Scrutiny Officer to research what other authorities are using and see what best fits SBC. Consult with SOC Chair with recommendations.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>To be scheduled.</p>	<p>To be progressed.</p> <p>SOC 20 11 06 suggested that the Scrutiny Officer compare with the Council's family group/other Herts authorities.</p> <p>Scrutiny Officer is canvassing for</p>	

				responses and will discuss this with other Scrutiny Officers at the next Herts Scrutiny Officer's Network Meeting.	
12. Report to Annual Council on Scrutiny Arrangements	Scrutiny Officer in consultation with the Chair of SOC and the Constitutional Services Manager formalise the Scrutiny arrangements, which have been informally in operation from October 2006. Draft of Report to go to SOC ahead of Council.	High (but not urgent)	Discussions with Chair of SOC Strategic Director and Constitutional Services Manager March/April 2007 ahead of Report to SOC and Annual Council.	To be progressed. Report should be an honest appraisal of the Scrutiny process including what has and what hasn't worked, including any inertia in the system. A draft of the report to be circulated to SOC before it goes to Council.	
13. Work on invitation to Exec Members to attend Topic Groups	Scrutiny Officer to discuss this further with the Chair of SOC to suggest a simple protocol.	Medium	Scrutiny Officer to set up meeting with Chair of SOC to discuss November/December 2006.	It is recommended that Exec Members are invited to attend Topic Groups if the Topic Group considers that it is necessary to carry out its scrutiny study. If SOC agrees this approach it can be deleted from this table.	✓ This item was agreed as completed at the last meeting and can now be deleted.
14. Scrutiny Newsletter	Scrutiny Officer to draw up a template of what could be in a	Medium	Its intended that this will be drawn up over the next few	Scrutiny Officer to liaise with the Communications	

	newsletter		weeks and agreed by SOC at its next meeting on 3 04 07	<p>Manager regarding the circulation intended audience etc.</p> <p>Scrutiny Officer met with the Communications Manager 23 02 07 and is producing a draft version to be approved by SOC and when format agreed published on a quarterly basis.</p>	
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COMPLETED SCRUTINY DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:

1. Protocol for Topic Groups
2. Monthly Report to SOC on latest position with Scrutiny items – Topic Group progress and Scrutiny Development issues
3. Budget Scrutiny – This year’s budget scrutiny completed. Development of strategy for next year in hand *
4. Pre-Scrutiny Template – now treated as an internal management document
5. Presentation to SMB 12 12 06 & Heads and First Reports 29 11 06
6. Agenda setting meetings between the Chair of SOC and the Scrutiny Officer before Chair’s Briefings
7. Draw up a flow chart to describe how issues are scrutinised at SBC
8. Provision for Standing Topic Group or a meeting of Chair of SOC and relevant Scrutiny Chair to filter large no. of topic group requests – using the SBC Template. This is now being progressed at agenda setting meetings with the Chair of SOC

* Budget Scrutiny for 2007/08 needs to be diarised for next years budget process