

Worcestershire County Council

# Overview and Scrutiny **Annual Report 2007**

January 2008

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## **Overview and Scrutiny Steering Committee**

*Directorates, which lead scrutiny members are shadowing, are shown in italics.*

John Buckley (Chairman)	<i>Corporate Services &amp; Financial Services</i>
Clive Holt (Vice Chairman)	<i>Financial Services &amp; Corporate Services</i>
Graham Ballinger	
John Cairns	<i>Planning, Economy and Performance</i>
John Champion	<i>Chairman of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</i>
Jo Hodges	<i>Children's Services</i>
Peter Pinfield	<i>Adult and Community Services</i>
Liz Tucker	<i>Environmental Services</i>
Keith Mercer	<i>Church Representative</i>
Lesley Towey	<i>Church Representative</i>
Peter Hawkins	<i>Parent Governor Representative</i>
Vacancy	<i>Parent Governor Representative</i>

## **Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

### *Worcestershire County Council*

John Champion (Chairman)  
John Cairns  
Ed Moore  
Penelope Morgan  
Rob Peachey  
Sean Shannon  
Gordon Yarranton

<i>Bromsgrove District Council</i>	Maddy Bunker
<i>Malvern Hills District Council</i>	Paul Tuthill
<i>Redditch Borough Council</i>	Betty Passingham
<i>Worcester City Council</i>	Pam Clayton
<i>Wychavon District Council</i>	Jo Sandalls
<i>Wyre Forest District Council</i>	Fran Oborski (Vice Chairman)

## **Scrutiny Team**

Suzanne O'Leary (Overview and Scrutiny Manager)  
Sandra Connolly (Overview and Scrutiny Officer)  
Alyson Grice/Samantha Morris (Overview and Scrutiny Officers – job share)  
Emma James/Jo Weston (Overview and Scrutiny Officers – part time)  
Stella Wood (Overview and Scrutiny Officer)  
Tanya Whiteman (Clerical Assistant)

## **Scrutiny Liaison Officers**

Adult and Community Services - Terry Davies  
Children's Services – Lisa Peaty  
Corporate Services - Patrick Birch  
Environmental Services - John Evans  
Financial Services - Tony Dipple  
Planning, Economy and Performance - Wendy James

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2007

## INTRODUCTION

1. I am pleased to present a report outlining the work of overview and scrutiny during 2007. I would like to thank all the members of the Overview and Scrutiny Steering Committee (OSSC), Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee's (HOSC) and scrutiny task groups for their work throughout the year.

2. My aim is to ensure that scrutiny adds value to the Council's decision-making process and makes a positive contribution towards policy development. In order to ensure the scrutiny function is as effective and efficient as possible, during 2007 the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) was asked to carry out an evaluation of our processes and practices.

3. I am pleased to report that the CfPS found we have many of the required elements of effective scrutiny in place and that there are a number of strengths in our approach. They described the OSSC as "a well respected and powerful committee that is used responsibly and appropriately in pursuit of public accountability." They also highlighted the HOSC's active programme and the value attached to its work by senior managers and practitioners from the Health Service.

4. The CfPS noted that a combination of new legislation and clear opportunities to tighten ways of working should enable overview and scrutiny at Worcestershire to "go up another gear". I am grateful to them for indicating how we can improve and I hope the Council can work together to ensure these improvements occur.

5. The CfPS has set out the following principles of effective scrutiny:

- a) Making an Impact on Service Delivery
- b) Providing Challenge
- c) Reflecting the Voice and Concerns of the Public
- d) Taking the Lead and Owning the Scrutiny Process

The rest of this report sets out our achievements in each of these areas.

## **a) MAKING AN IMPACT ON SERVICE DELIVERY**

### **Scrutinising Decisions and Service Delivery**

6. The scrutiny task groups remain the main vehicle through which decisions and services are reviewed. Completed and ongoing scrutinies are listed at Appendix 1, and are described in more detail below.

### Scrutinies completed

#### **DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME<sup>1</sup>**

7. The Council's capital programme has changed dramatically over the past 10 years, both in its scope and budget, which for 2007/08, stands at £97.9 million. A scrutiny task group led by John Buckley was set up in June 2007 to look at how the Council's capital programme is developed and managed. This has involved meetings with senior staff from the directorates of Corporate Services, Financial Services and Children's Services, as well as Cabinet Members.

8. The main findings emerging from the exercise are that the development of the programme lacks transparency from a member perspective, and that the role of cabinet members needs review and clarity. Operationally, the role of Property Services in co-ordinating the programme is based on clear processes and corporate priorities. There is a drive to move to a more corporate, strategic approach to capital planning and management, and this should be encouraged.

9. The task group has now completed its research and is due to publish its findings in early 2008, after approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Steering Committee.

#### **MANAGING EXCLUSIONS IN WORCESTERSHIRE**

10. In May 2006, the Overview and Scrutiny Steering Committee established a scrutiny task group led by Jo Hodges to explore the issue of exclusions from school. The OSSC noted that, although the rate of permanent exclusions was falling, numbers of fixed term exclusions were rising. Members wished to explore the background to this trend and to find out whether excluded pupils were getting an appropriate education, whether the current system, including the role of Pupil Referral Units (PRUs), was working and whether it could be improved.

11. This scrutiny built on a previous scrutiny exercise carried out by the Education Scrutiny Panel in July 2004 which aimed '*To examine the achievement of excluded pupils including the effectiveness of projects similar to Euro K4 in this*'. The scrutiny task group's terms of reference were to review the current arrangements for managing pupil behaviour in Worcestershire schools and their effectiveness by examining:

- Fixed term exclusions;
- Permanent exclusions;
- Managed moves;
- Trends in fixed term and permanent exclusions; and
- Alternative strategies for managing behaviour.

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<sup>1</sup> Report due to be considered by the OSSC on 24/01/08

12. The task group gathered evidence from a wide range of interested parties, including governors and pupils and parents/carers who had experienced the exclusions process. Members carried out an extensive programme of visits to schools of all types, including PRUs. In total five primary/first schools, two middle schools, ten high schools and most of the County's PRUs were visited. The task group also spoke to officers who work in the areas of exclusions, educational psychology, the 14-19 curriculum, behaviour support and social inclusion and took evidence from a number of other local authorities.

13. Key findings were:

- Permanent exclusions in Worcestershire were continuing to rise although figures were relatively low in comparison to near neighbour authorities.
- Pupils' general behaviour and attitude to school is heavily influenced by the level of parental skill and involvement.
- Early acknowledgement of potential problems could be of long term benefit to the school and the child.
- Many elements of good practice and innovative solutions to behaviour problems in schools were found.
- Some schools were working collaboratively to solve behaviour problems and this often brought positive results.

#### **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE**

14. The Highway Maintenance scrutiny task group led by Liz Tucker examined what value for money the Council is getting from its maintenance expenditure. Members looked at the current inspection processes, the new Term Maintenance Contract, public satisfaction and how the Council compared to other authorities. The task group spoke to a number of witnesses including a number of beacon and best performing Councils and an expert witness, Martin Snaith, the Emeritus Professor of Highway Engineering at Birmingham University.

15. The scrutiny found that the Council was not doing enough planned highways maintenance to prevent deterioration of the non-principal roads and that Worcestershire was fast approaching the point where the cost of repairs to the most critical roads would overwhelm the available funding. The task group therefore recommended that the Council calculates how much it would cost to carry out an extra maintenance programme, what future savings this work may produce, and whether the Council could afford to borrow the extra money.

16. Other recommendations were to develop a new local performance measurement of the condition of the less-used footways and sought to improve communication and information to councillors, the quality of defect repairs and public satisfaction.

17. The Report's recommendations were accepted by Cabinet and this has resulted in the addition of £15m to the capital programme over the next three years to improve the condition of urban unclassified roads.

## **HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANCY CONTRACT (HALCROW)<sup>2</sup>**

18. Members were interested to find what progress has been made in improving the delivery of highways design services and wanted to explore whether the new contract was delivering what was intended. In July 2007, the Overview and Scrutiny Steering Committee therefore agreed to set up a scrutiny task group led by Liz Tucker to examine how the new contract is working in relation to highways including the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of the design, construction and supervision of projects. The task group spoke to a number of witnesses, including other local authorities and examined three case studies.

19. Emerging findings are that concerns about lack of management control, project supervision, the adequacy of consultation on designed schemes and whether the new contract was delivering better value for money were initially justified. However the task group is reassured that the contract is now under continuous review and is becoming more effectively managed, especially after recent improvements driven largely by the Director of Environmental Services. These include more outcome focussed Key Performance Indicators, changes to process management and a shift in culture to the Council becoming a more intelligent client. Future changes, such as the Council taking responsibility for project supervision and consultation, and making better use of its engineers by designing small schemes in house should result in a more effective and efficient way of working.

### Current scrutiny task groups

## **BULLYING**

20. This scrutiny task group, led by Jo Hodges, was set up in July 2007 to examine issues relating to bullying in Worcestershire schools. The scrutiny is reviewing the current arrangements for dealing with bullying in all settings where the County Council has a responsibility for children and young people's safety and wellbeing and make suggestions for improvement by:

- Identifying the true scale of bullying;
- Highlighting successful areas of best practice both locally and nationally so that these can be shared with all settings;
- Determining whether the local authority's anti-bullying strategy is helpful to all settings;
- Making recommendations for how the local authority can improve the situation in all settings.

21. It is expected that this scrutiny will report in summer 2008.

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<sup>2</sup> report to be considered by the OSSC on 09/01/08

## **SUMMER 2007 FLOODS – JOINT COUNTYWIDE SCRUTINY**

22. County and District scrutiny chairmen and vice-chairmen met in July 2007. Enhanced two-tier working between the County and Districts on appropriate scrutiny initiatives is seen as a useful way to avoid duplication and develop partnerships and communication. The impact of scrutiny can also be strengthened by working together. Following this initial meeting there was a further discussion in November to consider whether it would be useful to establish a joint countywide scrutiny to look at issues raised by the summer floods.

23. The November meeting was positive and members have agreed to meet again in January 2008 to agree a scope for the scrutiny and the arrangements for taking forward a joint scrutiny.

### *Progress of previous scrutinies*

24. The CfPS evaluation noted that there had been a number of successful outcomes resulting from the scrutiny task groups, some of which are detailed below, but, as part of the evaluation, has also suggested ways to improve the way the outcomes of scrutiny reports are monitored.

## **PASSENGER TRANSPORT – APRIL 2006**

25. This scrutiny report was considered by the Cabinet in May 2006. The scrutiny task group re-formed in May 2007 to monitor progress of the previous scrutiny recommendations by responding to the consultation on a new draft passenger transport strategy. Members were pleased to see their recommendations would largely be taken into account, especially some of the key findings about problems with complaints handling by the County Council and the bus operator, a lack of information provided to the public about bus services, and a lack of public participation in considering new routes. In November 2007, the task group members became consultees on the best practice reports on, for example, bus stops, complaints, information, parking and infrastructure etc, which will be used to further inform the new strategy.

## **WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING**

26. In September 2007 the OSSC asked for a further update from the Director of Environmental Services, on action taken in the light of recommendations made by the Environment Scrutiny Panel's 2005 report on Waste Disposal and Recycling. It was noted that refurbished household waste sites would help to promote an ongoing change in people's attitudes to waste – helping people to see them as a recycling centre rather than a 'tip'. It was acknowledged that Worcestershire's capacity to expand its range of recycling facilities was limited by the size of its sites.

27. The OSSC also asked for information on the County's performance in the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS), an update on negotiations in relation to the Private Finance Initiative waste contract and about progress of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Review.

## **COUNTY MUSEUM**

28. The former Resources Scrutiny Panel carried out a scrutiny in 2004 on the County Museum at Hartlebury. The report considered a range of options on the future of the museum and recommended that it should remain at the Hartlebury Castle site and receive investment to help improve buildings, visitor facilities and the all-round experience. The Cabinet accepted these recommendations and agreed to invest in the museum. To enable members to see what progress had been made since, a member briefing was organised at the County Museum in February 2007.

29. The Head of Cultural Services noted that the scrutiny review had provided an opportunity to consider the museum's future and she outlined progress made on the objectives given by the scrutiny, including the investments made in the café, resource centre, the additional investment made in the reception and shop, and the installation of the lift to ensure Disability Act compliance.

## **HEALTHY EATING IN SCHOOLS**

30. Healthy Eating in Worcestershire Schools was the subject of a scrutiny task group that reported to Cabinet in May 2006. The Head of Raising Achievement and Access to Learning and the Catering Officer attended the OSSC in March 2007 to report on the progress which had been made following the scrutiny in areas such as, breakfast and snacks, the free fruit and vegetable scheme, the universal hot meals service, and packed lunches.

## **Scrutinising the Budget and Performance**

31. Part of the OSSC's remit is to take responsibility for corporate monitoring of performance management with a view to identifying areas of concern for scrutiny and performance information is circulated to OSSC members. The evaluation commented that overview and scrutiny is well-integrated into council business development cycles. It also cited the increasing involvement of the OSSC in financial and budget processes as an example of effective scrutiny before decisions are finalised and suggested that task groups' recommendations could make a further contribution to the development of the Council's Budget and Policy framework.

32. The OSSC spent October meeting cabinet members with responsibility and directors to discuss priorities and financial pressures facing each directorate and the budget reduction measures they have proposed for 2008/09 – 2010/11. It subsequently met the Leader, Chief Executive, the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Resources, and the Director of Financial Services to discuss the overall budget position. The OSSC recognises that the next few years will be extremely difficult for the Council, and welcomes the opportunity to be involved in the budget-setting process at an early stage. Members also acknowledge the openness of Cabinet Members and Directors throughout the discussions. However, the OSSC has some concerns about the clarity and level of detail in the information presented to it this year. Members also feel that there were unhelpful variations in the

information presented by different Directorates. In the coming year, the OSSC will review its own processes for budget scrutiny next year and attempt to identify any areas for improvement. However it has also recommended that Cabinet ensures there is a consistent format and style across Directorates in presenting information to the OSSC for budget meetings in future on budget scrutiny usefulness.

## **b) PROVIDING CHALLENGE**

33. A key role of scrutiny is to hold the Cabinet to account. Conducting in depth scrutinies is one way, but members can also hold the executive to account by questioning cabinet members with responsibility and calling in decisions. Altogether, the OSSC has investigated around 20 issues, primarily by means of single “select committee style” meetings involving a range of members, officers and partners (see Appendix 2 for list). Although these discussions do not result in detailed scrutiny reports and recommendations, they nonetheless enable members to challenge and influence services, and hold the Cabinet to account. Similarly the HOSC has met with local NHS bodies to discuss a number of issues, detailed in paragraphs 49-50.

34. In addition, each lead scrutiny member meets regularly with respective Directorates to keep track of emerging issues and developments. This helps the OSSC maintain an overview of key issues across the Council and enables members to develop knowledge and understanding of an area. It also enables lead scrutiny members to highlight possible future scrutiny subjects.

### **Call-ins**

35. Within five-days of Cabinet taking a decision, not less than two members of the OSSC or eight members who are not members of the Cabinet nor Advisers, may call in the decision if there is evidence to suggest that the Cabinet has departed from the principles of decision making. The called in decision will then be considered by the OSSC, which is asked to establish the extent to which the Cabinet had regard to the following principles of decision-making in reaching its decision and can:

- support the decision;
- decide whether it wishes to establish a scrutiny task group to look in detail at the issue;
- require a reconsideration of the decision;
- propose modifications to the decision; or
- in exceptional circumstances, refer the matter to Council for consideration.

36. There were two call-ins in 2007.

### **MALVERN HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY CLASS**

37. On 18 December 2006 the Cabinet gave approval for consultation to take place on the possible closure of the nursery class at Malvern Hills Primary School. The consultation had been prompted by very low numbers registered at the nursery and the low level of take up of nursery places over the previous five years. On 26 April

2007, the Cabinet resolved that the proposed closure of the nursery class from 1 September 2007 be supported. This decision was subsequently called in on 8 May 2007.

38. The OSSC considered the call-in and agreed to ask the Cabinet to reconsider its decision of 26 April 2007 on the basis that it considered that some of the information presented to the Cabinet was misleading (number of alternative providers and distances to these providers) and insufficient weight had been given to the Adjudicator's decision for Malvern Hills Primary School to remain open. The OSSC also recommended that the school and nursery class should be given two years to implement its recovery plan and rebuild public confidence, and the Governing Body should be asked to consider other options for the nursery such as working in partnership with a private provider.

39. Following the OSSC's report, the Cabinet agreed to defer the proposed closure of the nursery class until the end of the Summer Term 2008.

#### **LLANRUG OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE**

40. On 19 July 2007 Cabinet agreed to close Llanrug Outdoor Education Centre. This decision was called in and later considered by the OSSC, which visited Llanrug centre and also heard from a number of people including the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Young People and Director of Children's Services, Director of Financial Services, Head of Community Partnership in the Children's Services Directorate, Head of Property Services, Teacher Association Representatives, and the Outdoor Education Centre Mangers.

41. Having considered the call-in, the OSSC believed that the Cabinet did not have the full facts available when reaching the decision to close Llanrug. In this sense the Cabinet departed from the principles of decision making and the OSSC therefore recommended that the Cabinet reconsider its decision and allow Llanrug Outdoor Education Centre to remain open, and to develop a three-year plan to achieve a revenue neutral budget for the outdoor education service.

42. At its 6 December meeting the Cabinet agreed to rescind the decision to close the Centre and give it three financial years (2008/9, 2009/10 and 2010/11) to remove the subsidy whilst complying with health and safety standards.

#### **c) REFLECTING THE VOICE AND CONCERNS OF THE PUBLIC**

43. The OSSC tries to ensure that it carries out some scrutinies that reflect public concerns, for example bullying and highway maintenance. It is vital to engage with the community in scrutiny and the task groups attempt to do this and have had some success in gaining a fair amount of local press coverage of their reports and discussions. In addition, the scrutiny pages on the Council's webpage are continually updated.

44. However, it is recognised that this is an area that continues to need development. The CfPS evaluation noted that local authorities across the country find it hard to engage the public in scrutiny and commented that there is limited public interest overall in the overview and scrutiny function at Worcestershire. Their recommendations around work planning and communications to help address this are welcomed.

## **d) TAKING THE LEAD AND OWNING THE SCRUTINY PROCESS**

45. Scrutiny is a member-led process. All the scrutiny task groups have been set up as a result of suggestions from members, and the OSSC has the responsibility for leading and managing the scrutiny programme.

46. The CfPS commented as part of its evaluation that the leadership of overview and scrutiny by its members is highly rated across the council and among partners and that some lead members are dedicated to their roles and display a degree of passion about overview and scrutiny. It also commented: "from our work we are clear that the OSSC and task groups approach their work in a genuinely cross-party way." However it noted that the OSSC is quite an exclusive group at present and that not all non-executive members have been involved in overview and scrutiny. It has suggested ways that the OSSC can become more inclusive and consideration will be given to these.

## **HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

47. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) comprises seven county councillors and one co-opted member from each District Council. During 2007, the HOSC has seen a number of changes in membership, including a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman, both of whom were new to the County's health scrutiny function. A programme of induction events was run over June/July. Additionally, Members received support in the development of the HOSC, by taking advantage of a national advisory support service run by the Centre for Public Scrutiny which offered an advisor free of charge for 5 days. This support programme included a 'state of relationships' discussion between HOSC Members and NHS colleagues. All parties considered that there could be benefit in this becoming an annual event.

48. 2007 has also seen the creation of a new post which will be of great importance to the HOSC - the Director of Public Health, a joint post between Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Primary Care Trust. The relationship between this role and the HOSC will inevitably continue to evolve over the coming years and the HOSC Chairman has already met informally on a number of occasions with the Director, Richard Harling.

49. To help maintain an overview of local, regional and national NHS issues, the Chairman meets regularly with the Chief Executives and Chairmen of the local NHS Trusts, and the HOSC has considered a number of issues over the last year. These include:

- Worcestershire Primary Care Trust's Local Delivery Plan
- Briefing on NHS finances
- Independent Sector Procurement
- Practice Based Commissioning
- Worcestershire Primary Care Trust's translation services
- Specialised commissioning services
- Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust's DVD on the effectiveness of the home treatment service
- Forthcoming applications for Foundation Trust status by both Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
- Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) which will replace Patient & Public Involvement Fora

50. Additionally, the HOSC has continued working with local NHS bodies on consultations, keeping up-to-date on potential issues which might lead to consultations as well as formal consultations. This area of work has included:

- West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust's reconfiguration of emergency operations centres
- Ophthalmology services
- Mother and Baby Unit at the Alexandra Hospital, Redditch
- Paediatric services
- Pilot Urgent Care Service at Kidderminster Hospital
- Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust's draft Learning Disability Strategy
- Proposed new radiotherapy site
- 'Investing for Health' - the NHS West Midlands' strategic framework

51. As in previous years, the HOSC contributed comments on each of the local NHS bodies as part of the Healthcare Commission's annual healthcheck. Following the poor rating of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, the Trust was invited to attend a meeting of the HOSC to brief Members on its performance and also its proposed action plan. The HOSC also submitted evidence to the House of Commons Health Select Committee for its enquiry into Public and Patient Involvement in the NHS.

52. In looking to the future, at its final meeting in 2007, the HOSC considered how it could develop its future work programme. Members were invited to consider topics for future scrutiny exercises, and agreed to complete the ongoing scrutiny of Discharge from Hospital (with a focus on mental health). Recognising that there were a number of other pieces of work the Committee would need to cover over the coming months including the Acute Trust's action plan to address its performance as well as several consultations, new proactive scrutiny exercises would be considered in more detail in the future.

## **LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**

53. The next few years will be challenging for the overview and scrutiny function. The **Police and Justice Act 2006** enables every local authority to review or scrutinise crime and disorder matters, including organisations which are members of the crime and disorder reduction partnerships and the **Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007** includes new powers for overview and scrutiny to question, and request information from, partner organisations.

54. We will need to consider and implement where appropriate the CfPS evaluation's recommendations, in particular around work planning. Simultaneously, due to the Council's financial situation, decisions will need to be made about the levels of support the Council can provide for scrutiny.

**Cllr John Buckley**  
**Chairman**  
**Overview and Scrutiny Steering Committee**



**MEMBERSHIP OF SCRUTINY TASK GROUPS**

**Homecare - completed**

Peter Pinfield (Lead Member), Sue Askin, Jill Fairbrother-Millis, Reg Farmer, Edgar Harwood, Betty Passingham, Ted Sheldon, Clive Smith, Richard Udall

**Managing Exclusions - completed**

Jo Hodges (Lead Member), Tom Bean, Glenys Blackmoor, Debbie Hamilton-Jones, Penelope Morgan, Fran Oborski, Sean Shannon, Peter Hawkins - Parent Governor Representative, Keith Mercer - Church Representative

**Highway Maintenance - completed**

Liz Tucker (Lead Member), Simon Geraghty, Bill Hartnett, Edgar Harwood, Peter McDonald, Mike Oborski, Wally Stewart, Tom Wells

**Highways and Transportation Consultancy Contract (Halcrow) - completed**

Liz Tucker (Lead Member), Tom Bean, Bill Hartnett, Edgar Harwood, Ed Moore, Fran Oborski, Ted Sheldon

**Developing and Managing the Capital Programme – report to be considered by OSSC on 24/01/08**

John Buckley (Lead Member), Graham Ballinger, Ed Moore, Clive Smith, Tom Wells

**Officer Scheme of Delegation – ongoing**

Clive Holt (Lead Member), Sheila Blagg, Robin Lunn, Betty Passingham, Ted Sheldon, Jeremy Webb

**Bullying - ongoing**

Jo Hodges (Lead Member), Glenys Blackmoor, Mary Drinkwater, Penelope Morgan, Fran Oborski, Sean Shannon, Clive Smith

**Call-in: Closure of Malvern Hills Primary School Nursery Class - completed**  
OSSC members

**Call-in: Closure of Llanrug Outdoor Education Centre – completed**  
OSSC members

### ISSUES CONSIDERED BY THE OSSC IN 2007

Concluded work includes:

- Youth Service Provision and Funding
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Christopher Whitehead Language College
- Draft Annual Report/Best Value Performance Plan 2007
- Community Engagement Strategy
- Service Changes and Budget Management in 2007/08 and beyond – Adult and Community Services
- Waste Management
- Worcestershire Hub
- Worcestershire School Improvement Strategy
- Future Priorities for the Adult and Community Services Directorate
- Future Priorities for the Children's Services Directorate
- Future Priorities for the Corporate Services Directorate
- Future Priorities for the Environmental Services Directorate
- Future Priorities for the Planning, Economy and Performance Directorate

Call-ins

- Closure of Nursery Class at Malvern Hills Primary School
- Closure of Llanrug Outdoor Education Centre

Review of previous scrutinies

- Waste Disposal and Recycling
- Healthy Eating
- Passenger Transport
- County Museum

Ongoing work includes:

- Mobile Phone Masts on County Council Property
- Scrutiny Evaluation
- Restoration of the Droitwich Canals
- Flooding
- Budget Policy 2008/09

## Overview and Scrutiny Performance Measures

## APPENDIX 3

### 2006/07

Performance Measures	2005/06 Outturn	April – June 2006	July – Sept 2006	October – Dec 2006	January – March 2007	2006/07 Result
No of call ins received	1	0	0	0	0	0
No of Scrutiny Reports published	5	2	0	1	2	5
No of recommendations published	30	29	0	10	17	56 <sup>3</sup>
% of recommendations accepted	89.5%	100	0	70	100	95%
No of Reviews of Previous Scrutinies carried out	7	1	0	0	2	3

### 2007/08

Performance Measures	2006/07 Outturn	April – June 2007	July – Sept 2007	October – Dec 2007	January – March 2008	2007/08 Result
No of call ins received	0	1	1	0	N/A	-
No of Scrutiny Reports published	5	1	0	1	N/A	-
No of recommendations published	56	23	0	4	N/A	-
% of recommendations accepted	95%	87%	0	50%	N/A	-
No of Reviews of Previous Scrutinies carried out	3	1	1	0	N/A	-

<sup>3</sup> A further 9 recommendations were made to schools

**Further copies of this report are available from:**

Overview and Scrutiny Team  
Legal and democratic Services  
Worcestershire County Council  
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