

Report from Overview and Scrutiny

Lead Members: Councillors B Dixon, Mrs Y R T Clarkson, J Kane, Mrs W Metherell

1. Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Greater Public Involvement in Overview and Scrutiny

- Management Committee has considered a number of proposals for securing better public engagement in overview and scrutiny activities. These include holding more meetings away from the Copeland Centre, on a rota basis around the main towns of Whitehaven, Egremont, Cleator Moor, Millom, Mid Copeland (Seascale, Gosforth etc), and North Copeland (Distington); seeking a better understanding in the press and media of overview and scrutiny activities; a greater profile for task and finish groups; and co-option of members of the public and representatives of partner organizations onto committees and/or task and finish groups.
- This report will be discussed further by Management Committee at its workshop on 14 December 2009

Strategic Risk Register

- The Committee considered and noted the new Strategic Risk Register which describes the Council's identified corporate and strategic risks

Process Improvement Team Annual Report

- The Committee received a summary update on the work of the Process Improvement Team. The Process Improvement Team was established in 2005/6 to provide the Council with some capacity to review services, identify opportunities to make efficiencies and support managers in implementing improvements.

The Process Improvement Team is a source of knowledge of good practice and improvement techniques, from both Government and the private sector.

Future scrutiny training and development needs for our Authority

A discussion has been held around the need for training and development of members and officers, particularly in the light of the proposals to restructure the overview and scrutiny delivery framework. Committee agreed that as an initial first step in this process it should hold a full day workshop for its members on 14 December 2009 to review where scrutiny is up to in the Authority, and consider its needs and vision for the future.

2. Economic Development and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- This Committee has received updates on:

The Future Jobs Fund, an initiative bringing a significant number of new jobs to the Borough

The Development Strategy Service Plan which notes the activities planned for the service which are of relevance to the OSC Economic Development and Enterprise work plan.

3. Children Young People and Healthy Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- This Committee has not met since the last Council meeting, next meeting scheduled for 3 December 2009

4. Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- This Committee has not met since the last Council meeting, next meeting scheduled for 7 January 2010.