
To
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

4th February, 2009

Subject
Scrutiny Chairs' Progress Reports - Scrutiny Board 1

1 Purpose of the Note

To inform the Committee of the work of Scrutiny Board 1 (Finance, Procurement and Value for Money/Customer, Workforce and Legal Services) during the period November 2008 to January 2009, together with the recommendations and other outcomes of this work.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the information contained in this briefing note and to consider any further action.

3 Information/Background

3.1 Activity

Scrutiny Board

- 3.1.1 The Board will have held two meetings by the end of January. Its November meeting was cancelled as information on the issues identified for that meeting was not available in time. These issues were considered at subsequent meetings.
- 3.1.2 There has also been one meeting of the Incentive Scheme working group, which was established by the Board to examine the possibility of introducing such a scheme in Coventry.
- 3.1.3 Issues considered by the Board at its December meeting were as follows:-
- MediumTerm Financial Strategy 2009-2012
 - One-Stop Shops evaluation (report back on the Cabinet's decisions, which concurred with the majority of the recommendations made by the Board's Sub-Group) and information on a proposed customer services strategy
 - Update on the performance of the Benefits Section
 - measuring Coventry City Council's performance in relation to equality of opportunity
- 3.1.4 Issues to be considered at its January meeting are:-
- a proposed ICT strategy
 - 2nd quarter sickness absence statistics
 - information on Whitefriars Housing's approach to sickness absence

Audit Sub-Group

The Sub-Group held two meetings and the issues considered were:-

- Business Continuity Management
- quarter one capital monitoring report: capital receipts projections
- sale of the Menagerie (private item)
- External Audit report on Coventry Direct
- Internal Audit report: ICT health check
- Internal Audit plan 2008/2009 - quarter two progress report
- corporate fraud progress report 2008/2009
- quarter 2 2008/009 revenue monitoring and corporate capital monitoring and treasury management report
- Housing Benefit fraud
- capital receipts 2008/2009 and 2009/2010: update

3.2 Recommendations

The Board made no recommendations during this period.

The Audit Sub-Group referred the External Audit report on Coventry Direct to the Cabinet so that it could be made aware of the report's conclusions.

3.3 Outcomes

3.3.1 Having received initial information on the Customer Services Strategy in December 2008, the Board is intending to discuss this further at its February meeting.

3.3.2 The Audit Sub-Group has asked:-

- for regular updates on the capital receipts situation, in view of the consequent effects on the Council's financial position
- for a progress report on the action plan relating to the External Audit report on Coventry Direct
- for a report on the progress made at Curriers Close Social Enterprise to address the findings of the Internal Audit review
- officers to ensure that appropriate systems are in place to deal with non-compliance with procedures for purchasing cards

Councillor David Arrowsmith
Chair, Scrutiny Board 1 (tel. 024 7683 1103)

For more information please contact:
Corinne Steele
Performance and Scrutiny Team
Chief Executive's Directorate
(tel. 024 7683 1145)