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**To**  
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Date 4<sup>th</sup> February 2009

**Subject**  
Scrutiny Chairs' Quarterly Reports - Scrutiny Board 3 (City Development, City Services, Climate Change, Housing & Sustainability)

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### **1 Purpose of the Note**

1.1 To inform the Committee of the work of Scrutiny Board 2 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**

The Board held 4 meetings during this period:  
20/10/2008; 5/11/2008; 3/12/2008; 14/01/2009.

Issues considered by the Board over the period were as follows:-

Project Transform – Submission of an Outline Business Case for PFI Credits  
Implementation of the Traffic Management Act 2004  
Air Quality Management Update  
Maintenance Issues – The Grange  
Climate Change Strategy  
'Transforming places: changing lives – a framework for regeneration'  
Key Issues paper re Waste Strategy  
Local Area Agreement – Scrutiny of net additional homes and affordable housing targets  
LDF Core Strategy

#### **3.2 Recommendations**

The Board has spent some considerable time over the last two years scrutinising the delivery of waste disposal services, monitoring and taking part in the development of a new Waste Strategy and considering the future options for the final disposal of the city's waste. Following a special meeting the Board concluded unanimously that it supported the proposal to develop an Outline

Business Case with colleagues from Solihull and Warwickshire for a new energy from waste plant, the so-called 'Project Transform'. Cabinet were advised accordingly.

Members considered a retrospective response to the Government consultation paper "Transforming Lives" which the Board endorsed and advised Cabinet accordingly.

The Board has recently taken part in the development of the Parking Strategy and recently forwarded comments to officers following deliberations at the January meeting. These will be followed up when a formal proposal for Cabinet is prepared later in the municipal year.

### **3.3 Outcomes**

In considering the implementation of the Traffic Management Act 2004 the Board noticed that there were a number of pieces of work still to be completed for the Council to draw down all of the powers in this legislation. It requested some further information regarding the Network Management Plan, and an update on the delivery of the Urban Traffic Management Control Centre.

The Board has broadly supported the concept of a citywide Air Quality Management Area, and is awaiting formal consultation on a proposal to this effect and further analysis of the recent efforts to improve air quality in specific locations in the City.

In December the Board considered a progress report on the delivery of the Climate Change Strategy, this whilst prompting much debate also acted to inform future work programme items. In particular the Board requested further information regarding the Council's own efforts to promote green travel to staff which was subsequently circulated.

The key issues from the consultation on the Municipal Waste Strategy for the City threw up a number of debates, most specific of which was regarding co-mingling or kerbside sorting of waste. A number of groups had submitted criticism of the Council's plan for co-mingling recyclates. The Board concluded after a thorough discussion with officers that the Council's plan for co-mingling was sound, given the potential increase in recycling levels this might achieve.

In January the Board carefully scrutinised two targets contained within the Local Area Agreement. These related to the current difficulties in the housing market, and whilst one (affordable housing units delivered) was showing green, i.e. on course to be achieved, both were actually a cause for concern due to the slow down in the housing market. The Board has requested further information from housing officers on the work being undertaken to secure the occupation of several completed but unsold developments in the City.

Following a request from the Cabinet Member (City Development) the Board has decided to set up a Core Strategy Consultation Group to assist officers in developing the forthcoming Core Strategy document, due to be considered by Council in March.

### **Briefing Note Author / Contact for Further Information**

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26<sup>th</sup> January 2009.