

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Subject: Overview & Scrutiny Management Board Quarterly Scrutiny Report
Committee: Overview & Scrutiny Management Board
Date: 31 March 2010
CMT Member: Ian Gallin (Assistant Chief Executive)
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Ref:
Part: Part I

Executive Summary:

This report sets out a review of the performance of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for the period January to March 2010.

Corporate Plan 2009-2012:

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board provides management of strategic scrutiny of all Corporate Improvement Priorities and is the lead scrutiny body for the Corporate Plan. The Management Board has scrutinised the Corporate Plan 2010-13 during the period covered by this report.

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

The Management Board has scrutinised the revenue and capital budgets, and Corporate Improvement Priorities relating to the above during the period of this report.

Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Impact Assessment, etc.

As above

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

That the report is noted

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

N/A

Background papers:

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board minutes, reports and work programme relating to meetings of 3, 15 and 17 February and 3 March 2010.

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Overview & Scrutiny Management Board Quarterly Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out a review of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for the first quarter of 2010, incorporating the meetings of 6 January, 3, 15 and 17 February and 3 March 2010.

2. Scope of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board replaced the Commission following changes to the Council's scrutiny structure agreed in July 2009. The Board's remit was enhanced to include a more pro-active management role for the scrutiny process as a whole, a greater emphasis on the scrutiny of partnerships, and the lead scrutiny role for finance and performance management. The Board is also now responsible for the scrutiny of the Council's Corporate Plan, and revenue and capital budget proposals.
- 2.2 The detailed terms of reference for the O & S Management Board are contained within the Council's Constitution.
- 2.3 The O & S Management Board consists of the following members and officers

Title	Name	Attendance (5 meetings)
Councillor (Chair)	D.James	5
Councillor (Vice Chair)	Mrs Watkins	5
Councillor	Coker	5
Councillor	Fox	4
Councillor	Purnell	5
Councillor	Roberts	4
Councillor	Thompson	5
Councillor	Viney	5
Councillor	Wildy	4
Co-opted representative	D Fletcher	3
Co-opted representative (statutory, budget scrutiny only)	K Willis	2
Lead Officer	Giles Perritt	5
Democratic Support	Judith Shore/ Gemma Pearce/ Rachel Watson/ Ross Jago	2/2/4/1

- 2.4 The Panel, through its strategic management of the Council's scrutiny function, including monitoring of finance and performance, focuses on the role of the following Cabinet Members and CMT officers:

Title	Name
Cabinet Member (Finance, Property, People and Governance)	Cllr. Ian Bowyer
Cabinet Member (Customer Services, Performance and Partnerships)	Cllr. Steven Ricketts
Director for Corporate Support	Adam Broome
Chief Executive	Barry Keel
Leader of the Council	Cllr Mrs Pengelly

- 2.5 In addition to the above, the entire Cabinet, Corporate Management Team and most members of the Senior Management Team attended the meeting on 15 and 17 February for scrutiny of the Council's Corporate Plan and Budget.

3. Key achievements during the last quarter

The last quarterly report for the board set the following targets for the Board:

3.1 Effective scrutiny of the 2010 budget and Corporate Plan

The Board took an innovative approach to planning the above scrutiny, with facilitated planning meetings working with an independent IDeA Peer Officer. A comprehensive report was produced, containing a series of recommendations covering the full scope of the Corporate Plan and associated financial planning documents. The report was unanimously accepted at the Council meeting of 1 March 2010, and Cabinet subsequently accepted all its recommendations at its meeting of 16 March, passing on thanks for the quality of the report and recommendations.

3.2 Development of Councillor Call for Action and Petitions Protocol

The Councillor Call for Action toolkit is an item on the agenda for this meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board

3.3 Further development of protocols between the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Theme Groups and the Council's scrutiny panels

Following the endorsement of the protocols at the 3 March meeting of the Board, an informal meeting between the Management Board and Theme Group Chairs is due to take place on 31 March to discuss ways in which alignment between the LSP and scrutiny panels can be further developed now that the protocols have been agreed.

3.4 Press communications to improve greater public engagement

Scrutiny activity has received coverage in the local press in respect of the Corporate Plan scrutiny, specialist cancer care for women and the Financial Inclusion strategy in the last quarter, but opportunities for greater coverage exist. No specific work has yet been undertaken in this area.

3.5 Scrutiny response to Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and other corporate inspections.

Due to the work programme between the CAA 'One Place' announcement in December 2009 and the present, this piece of work has not been completed.

3.6 Ensure the delivery of effective training and development for scrutiny members

There has been a delay in undertaking the specified training package agreed with the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA), which will now take place following the local elections in May 2010.

3.7 In addition to the above, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, Cllr David James, attended the Cabinet at its meeting of 19 January 2010 to present a summary of scrutiny activity. The Cabinet resolved the following:

3.7.1 Cabinet commends scrutiny for its contribution to the city's improvement agenda

3.7.2 Cabinet acknowledges the Board's role in the scrutiny of the Local Strategic Partnership

3.7.3 Scrutiny resources are kept under review to meet its expanding role

3.7.4 Cabinet will seek opportunities to allow further and earlier scrutiny of documents in the budget and policy framework prior to Cabinet approval.

4. On the Horizon

- Ensuring that the recommendations from the Management Board of 15 and 17 February are implemented effectively
- Ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place to ensure continuity of the scrutiny function following the local elections in May 2010
- That outstanding actions regarding press coverage, and Comprehensive Area Assessment overview and scrutiny activity are taken forward.

5. Recommendation

5.1 That the progress of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be noted.

Giles Perrit, Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships
Lead Officer Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
March 2010