PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE 12th November, 2004

Present:- Councillor Stonebridge (in the Chair); Councillors Atkin, Clarke, Doyle, Hall, Hussain, G. A. Russell, R. S. Russell, St.John, Sangster and Whelbourn.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors License.

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

59. VISIT BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF HULL CITY COUNCIL

A welcome was extended to the Members and Officers of Hull City Council, who were visiting this Authority to view the operation of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee.

60. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF REGENERATION: AUDIT COMMISSION FINDINGS AND FINAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director, Economic and Development Services, relating to the key findings from the Audit Commission's Inspection of the Council's Regeneration services.

Consideration was also given to the final Improvement Plan arising from the Best Value Review.

The Cabinet Member for Economic and Development Services, Councillor Gerald Smith, attended the meeting to answer questions about the review.

Resolved:- That the report and improvement plan be received and their contents noted.

61. CORPORATE EQUALITY STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Equalities and Diversity Manager concerning the development of the Council's Corporate Equality Strategy. Appended to the report were copies of the Equality and Diversity Statement and Policy, which included details of the Best Value performance indicators in relation to equalities issues.

Members debated the following issues:-

- how this strategy would impact specifically upon service delivery
- meeting the requirements of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- the different forms of disability and how certain forms of disability such as mental health and learning difficulties were overlooked through the generic label of "disability"
- age discrimination

- guidelines from Central Government on the Equality Standard for Local Government
- the uses of the statement and the policy

Resolved:- (1) That the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee endorses the development and adoption of the new Corporate Equality Strategy.

(2) That the Democratic and Resources Scrutiny Panel shall be responsible for the monitoring of the Corporate Equality Strategy and the implementation plan.

62. **FLYTIPPING REVIEW**

The Committee considered the report of the scrutiny review of fly tipping and its supporting documents (i) Minute No. 62 of the meeting of the Environment Scrutiny Panel held on 21st October, 2004 and (ii) details of the Corporate Management Team's consideration of the review report.

The Mayor (Councillor F. Wright) attended the meeting to present the review and answer questions about its contents.

Members debated the following issues:-

- the Council's recycling initiatives (eg: blue bag and blue box collection from households);
- the costs of recycling the various materials;
- disposal of waste (eq: landfill; incineration);
- enforcement issues and the relative leniency of fines imposed on persons and organisations convicted of fly tipping offences;
- the costs and use of community skips;
- the costs and use of the Council's bulky item collection service;
- the separation of waste materials for recycling;
- the provision and location of waste recycling centres in the Borough area.

Resolved:- (1) That the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee endorses the review of fly tipping and the comments of the Corporate Management Team, now submitted.

(2) That the Cabinet be asked to consider the review report, together with the comments of the Corporate Management Team, and determine future action in the light of the review's recommendations.

- (3) That a progress report be submitted to the Environment Scrutiny Panel, three months after the Cabinet had considered and communicated its views about the review report.
- (4) That further consideration be given to the costs of waste collection and disposal and the provision of recycling facilities, as part of the Council's budget deliberations for the 2005/06 financial year.
- (5) That a further study be undertaken of the possible provision within the community, of facilities which will enable members of the public to dispose of waste materials for recycling and to separate the materials at the point of disposal.

63. MONITORING PERFORMANCE QUARTER 1 2004/05

Consideration was given to the monitoring report of the Council's performance in Quarter 1, 2004/05. The report provided details of 52 key performance measures which adhered to the following criteria:-

- LPSA indicator
- exception reporting based on poor or excellent performance
- core Comprehensive Performance Assessment indicators
- other key indicators reflecting the Council's corporate priorities

Members noted that the emphasis upon the use of certain key performance indicators had been shown to be a beneficial way of measuring performance. This method was approved by the Audit Commission and by the I&DeA and was also being used by many other local authorities.

Resolved:- (1) That this Committee notes the move towards exception reporting with a stronger focus on certain key performance indicators, as approved at the joint meeting of the Cabinet and the Corporate Management Team held on 25th October, 2004.

- (2) That this Committee notes the performance information, the content and the format of the report now submitted, as approved jointly by the Cabinet and the Corporate Management Team.
- (3) That this Committee notes the printing and production cost savings which will be made from the revision of the reporting format.

64. INSPECTIONS AND REVIEWS: PROGRESS MADE IN LAST TWO YEARS

Consideration was given to a report, prepared by the Chief Executive's Performance and Quality Unit, containing an analysis of the progress made by the Council's services against the 632 recommendations made since December, 2002, during the various inspections and reviews of the Council.

The summary findings for each Programme Area were appended to the report. Those recommendations which had been implemented as part of action plans were shown as completed in this report.

Resolved:- (1) That this Committee notes that the decision to sign off the action plans where recommendations have been completed, as indicated in Appendix 1 to the report now submitted, was approved by the Corporate Management Team on 18th October, 2004.

- (2) That this Committee notes that the Chief Executive's Performance and Quality Unit will provide quarterly exception reports to the Corporate Management Team and to this Committee, from the information provided by the Programme Areas.
- (3) That this Committee notes that the Chief Executive's Performance and Quality Unit will offer further support to the Programme Areas on issues identified within the report now submitted.

65. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 22ND OCTOBER. 2004

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 22nd October, 2004, be approved as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

66. WORK IN PROGRESS

Members of the Committee reported on the following issues:-

- (a) Councillor G. A. Russell reported on the following reviews of the Social and Community Support Scrutiny Panel, currently taking place:-
- the corporate parenting review;
- the learning disability review (employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities;
- a review of Youth Offending Services and an update of the progress of the Children's Bill:
- a presentation about safeguarding arrangements part of the work of the Children and Young People's Board scrutiny working party.
- (b) Councillor R. S. Russell reported on the following issues considered by the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel:-
- the Council's report template should include a section about Regeneration;
- the role and remit of the Regeneration Board needed to be reviewed;

the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee should consider the

need for a review of the targets and performance of the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive;

- there were concerns about Programme Areas using the non-filling of vacant posts to accrue budget savings

the Council should develop a protocol for consultation with the public, for example, about proposals for highway improvement schemes.

- (c) Councillor St. John reported that the Lifelong Opportunities Scrutiny Panel was undertaking a review of pupil attendance at school, including the process where pupils were excluded from school; Councillor St. John was also involved in a Regional Assembly review in Yorkshire and Humberside.
- (d) Councillor Whelbourn reported on the following reviews of the Democratic and Resources Scrutiny Panel:-
- Benefits take-up (jointly with the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel);
- Housing renewal;
- the citizenship curriculum (including the role of the Youth Cabinet);
- beginning a cross-cutting review of equal opportunities.
- (e) Councillor Atkin reported on the following reviews of the Environment Scrutiny Panel:-
- Audit Commission report on waste inspection;
- review of the condition and use of Council-owned garage sites;
- a review of the role of environmental wardens (including neighbourhood wardens, park rangers and community caretakers).
- (f) Councillor Stonebridge reported on the following issues:-
- the review of the Local Strategic Partnership had begun
- consideration of scrutiny's role in the Area Assemblies had begun
- a retrospective review was taking place of the role of the Local Government Association and the employers' organisation in the recent industrial dispute affecting the fire services
- the Centre for Public Scrutiny had recently become a not-for-profit limited company and was examining the possibility of the scrutiny of one level of central and local government by other levels (eg: local government to scrutinise the work of regional government).

There were no formal call in requests.