

Commission Report 2nd and 4th July

I first wish to thank all members for their input and patience into the changes that are impacting scrutiny as we move through the transformation process that is gathering a pace through this Council.

It is already clear that this council's resource is impacted, both financially and upon staff but it is also important to bear in mind the efficient use of our staffing resource. Thus our resource is reduced and inadequate to support the current three panels. If that statement is supported, then we need to look at alternative structures to support scrutiny's internal and external viewpoints. The Democratic Services team are preparing short descriptions of alternative scrutiny models for the 2nd July and we will all have the opportunity to engage with the facilitator, David McGrath to draw some conclusions. The meeting on the 2nd will help to discuss (thrash out!) options brought to us by officers and options we may have seen or heard of in other similar districts to Harborough. At the previous workshop the alternative scrutiny model highlighted was of: one panel, supported by task-and-finish groups.

But it is not only about the structure. It is also the culture of scrutiny. Particularly the position it should have in being the source of constructive challenge to both the Council Corporate and the Executive. Plus, moving forward to have a more strategic view and focus on "big ticket" items that impact, and are of interest to, our residents. That was my motivation to call on you all to submit, by email to Ed/Beth, your top three items so they can be discussed at the meeting on the 2nd July. You still have time to submit before the 2nd but the deadline is the 27th June. If you require a refreshment of the invitation email I sent, it was sent on Fri 6/1/2012 12:33 PM.

Following our discussions on the 2nd, on the July 4th Commission we should have distilled our options at the workshop for the discussion of what we wish to see in the workplan.

In conclusion: the 2nd and 4th will work hand-in-hand to continue the evolution of scrutiny and my hope is we can join together and shape it correctly for both it's impact and value to: Members; Officers, Public and partners

Cllr Dr Paul Bremner

Scrutiny Commission Chair