

Council 30 July 2012

Agenda item 7a refers

Scrutiny Chairs Report

This month has seen members come together to discuss the future of scrutiny on the 2nd and 4th of July. The minutes for the 4th July meeting will be dispatched shortly, but they have been delayed due to the timing of this Full Council meeting and the paper collation. I would like to take the output of both these meetings - as the positive movement forward for Scrutiny, in a time of considerable change.

This new structure will only work with the support and engagement of members and I am pleased to say that has been evident throughout this process and I hope it now continues forward. Over the summer period our Officer colleagues will be working hard to draw up a draft workplan that incorporates the three top items Commission decided would be the "Big Ticket" Items.

The officers now have the structure into which the draft work-plan can fit. Especially how it can align and precede the Executives Forward plan. In the era of Localism scrutiny must be mindful of its role to the budget holders of services provided to our community and that are often to be found **outside** the offices of this Council. With these thoughts in mind I wish to remind all councillors of the new proposed structure:

I'm sure you're aware but just to be clear: from the Commission Meeting on the 4th, minutes to come to you shortly, once council papers are organised: it is recorded that we agreed the following names for the scrutiny panels:

1. **Value for Money Panel** focusing on: Council decisions; resources and Performance (including the future aligning Scrutiny Work-plan to come before Executive, but in a time of fast moving transition, it may still be a scrutiny "look-back/assessment"). A more internal focus.
2. **Community Leadership Panel** focusing on: outward issues; our locality and external bodies. A more external focus.

My thanks to the Chief Executive for her attendance at the recent Scrutiny meetings, it has helped Members to have an Officer strategic view to base their decisions on.

A final word to the Executive: Scrutiny is your critical friend and together we can take this Council forward.