

# Information Note

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16 July 2012

This note is intended to inform members of any matters covered at the Gloucestershire Scrutiny Group which may be of interest and prompt discussion at the O&S meeting.

### Update from Gloucestershire Scrutiny Group 8 July 2012

Attended by Cllr Penny Hall and Rosalind Reeves from Cheltenham Borough Council

#### 1. Changes to O&S structures across Gloucestershire

- Forest have just reviewed the success of their new structure introduced in May 2011 – a single committee and a number of scrutiny panels. Felt it was working well.
- Interest in CBC's new structure
- At the county, scrutiny resource now integrated into Democratic Services but still officer support for O&S
- county reviewing O&S structure

#### 2. Reviews shared that may be of interest

- GO Shared service review beginning in July (Forest)
- Process for groups seeking voluntary and community sector funding starting in July (Forest)
- Private sector housing renewal loans reporting in July (Forest)
- Budget scrutiny underway at the county and aiming to report to Cabinet in November to influence the MTFs – may be worth CBC looking at how they do it
- looking at ICT provision for new members at the county in 2013 – may be worth looking at the outcomes
- Member communication in the development of the Joint Core Strategy (Tewkesbury) – review completed and recommendations made
- Housing and Homelessness strategy review underway (Tewkesbury)
- Public participation (Stroud)
- UBICO review planned at Cheltenham – Tewkesbury expressed an interest in this

#### 3. Learning points

The value of holding a one day enquiry to deal with a scrutiny topic. Eg County did a one day enquiry on Severn Estuary and produced a short video for the Centre for Public Scrutiny conference. Forest did a similar one-day enquiry on Leisure centres and parking. Takes a lot of time to organise but can be very effective for generating interest and outcomes and dealing with an issue in a short space of time

For scrutiny to be effective the importance of members attending meetings and being prepared by reading papers and preparing questions beforehand.

#### 4. Update on Police and Crime Panel.

Group received an update and a briefing has now been sent to all councillors

Contact Officer: Rosalind Reeves, Democratic Services Manager

Tel No: 01242 774937

Email: [Rosalind.reeves@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:Rosalind.reeves@cheltenham.gov.uk)