

Information Note

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 October 2012

Update from Gloucestershire Scrutiny Group 4 October 2012

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

1. Changes to O&S structures across Gloucestershire

- At the county, scrutiny resource now integrated into Democratic Services but still officer support for O&S. They have reviewed their structure and are reducing no of committees by two and integrating Performance and Budget into the main O&S Committee.
- Stroud potentially moving away from Cabinet structure so may have no O&S committees in the future

2. Reviews shared that may be of interest

- GO Shared service review in the Forest have looked at implementation and savings and are recommending that the review is adjourned for a year when the savings will be revisited
Cotswold also planning to look at GO savings/targets
- Glos County won overall award at Centre for Public Scrutiny for their work on the Severn Estuary
- UBICO review planned at Cheltenham – Tewkesbury expressed an interest in this and Cotswold planning to review as well
- Grass cutting – Glos City in the middle of a review as well as Cheltenham
- Petitions on badgers referred to O&S at the county

3. Public v private meetings and scrutiny governance

To be scheduled for the next meeting. Forest have had some challenges about some advice scrutiny has received in a private meeting.

4. Update on Police and Crime Panel.

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

Main concern was short length of time (1 week), the panel will have to scrutinise the police budget and seeking to engage the commissioner earlier.

5. Update from Keith Rog, Head of Marketing and Development Glos First

Presentation mainly focussed on high level visions and aims and a series of numbers e.g. no of apprentices etc but without any targets it was difficult for the group to apply any scrutiny and members felt this was not the right forum for that.

Members concerned that districts were not well represented in the new structure and felt there had been some gaps in communication. Keith highlighted the difference in the organisation now funding had been cut and resources were reduced from 50 to 19. They had to rely on the public sector representatives on the Board to disseminate information to their colleagues.

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