

THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 November 2012

BATCH 3 INFORMAL SCRUTINY GROUPS 2012/13 – TERMS OF REFERENCE

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

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RECENT REFERENCES:

OS43 – Update On 2011/12 Informal Scrutiny Groups, appointment of Batch 3 Informal Scrutiny Groups and review of the new Overview and Scrutiny Procedures – 28 May 2012

OS45 - Appointment of Informal Scrutiny Groups for 2012/13 – 18 June 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This Report asks Members to confirm the terms of reference for Batch 3 Informal Scrutiny Groups as set out in paragraph 2. The Committee may also wish to consider whether there are any other matters that the ISG's should focus on as part of their investigations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee confirms the terms of reference for Batch 3 Informal Scrutiny Groups as set out in paragraph 2 of the Report.

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#### DETAIL:

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 At their meeting on the 18 June 2012, The Overview and Scrutiny Committee appointed a third 'batch' of Informal Scrutiny Groups (ISGs) which would be undertaken in 2012/13. Group Managers nominated the membership of the ISGs, which was then ratified by the meeting of the Committee held on 9 July 2012.
- 1.2 As part of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee's discussions of the proposed ISGs, Members referred to the suggested scope of the scrutiny investigations. These have generally formed the basis of their terms of reference as set out at paragraph 2.
- 1.3 The following table sets out details of the batch 3 ISGs appointed, the majority of which are advanced in their work.

ISG	Lead officer and DSO support	Membership
Provision of Public Transport in Town and Rural Areas ISG	Andy Hickman Colin Veal	<b>Cllr Read (lead)</b> Cllrs Bodtger, Henry, Hiscock, Jeffs, Southgate, and Weir
Impact of the Localism on the City Council and our Communities ISG	Antonia Perkins David Blakemore	<b>Cllr Hutchison (lead)</b> Cllrs Mather, Maynard, Johnston, Phillips and Warwick
Access to Services in the Market Towns and Rural Areas ISG	Robert Heathcock Nancy Graham	<b>Cllr Evans (lead)</b> Cllrs Cook, Mason, McLean, and Verney
The impact of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) on City Estates ISG	Richard Botham Dave Shaw	<b>Cllr Scott (lead)</b> Cllrs Collin, E Berry, J Berry, Green, and Prowse
Review of the Statutory Basis of City Council Services ISG	David Blakemore	<b>Cllr Sanders (lead)</b> Cllrs Nelmes, Phillips, and Warwick

## 2 Batch 3 Informal Scrutiny Groups 2012/13 – Terms of Reference

2.1 The following Batch 3 ISGs have agreed their terms of reference as set out below.

### (i) **Provision of Public Transport in Town and Rural Areas ISG**

‘With a particular reference on buses, the ISG would investigate the provision of public transport services and infrastructure to support the evening economy in the Winchester Town area and look at the provision of rural services in general, including dial-a-ride and community transport services.’

In addition, the Group agreed that it would examine the following:

- a) Explore the nature of the difficulties facing people seeking to use buses in the evenings in the Town, whilst acknowledging that the Town Forum are progressing measures to address this.
- b) Explore the nature of the difficulties facing people seeking to use buses in rural areas.
- c) Seek to identify ways to address these difficulties in a sustainable and viable way in partnership with other local authorities and agencies’.

### (ii) **Impact of the Localism on the City Council and our Communities ISG**

‘That the ISG examine the implications for Winchester City Council and our communities from the Localism Act, with particular focus on the general ‘Powers of Competence’ and Neighbourhood Planning’.

### (iii) **Access to Services in the Market Towns and Rural Areas ISG**

‘To review current arrangements for the access to services within the rural and market town areas across the District and consider ways in which this can be cost effectively improved where required.

The review to include the following areas:

- To consider how the City Council identifies the service needs of residents
- To identify strengths and weaknesses of current service provision
- To assess any disadvantage that people might experience because they live in the rural areas or market towns of the District

To explore innovative ways to remove the local barriers which prevent people from accessing services’.

### (iv) **The impact of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) on City Estates ISG**

- To consider and review the impact of increasing numbers of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) on City estates, to include data on the present number of HMOs and projected numbers into the future.

- To review the potential for a HMO licensing scheme as a means of addressing community concerns regarding the impact of HMOs on City estates.
- To consider the potential for other solutions to address these community concerns.
- To make recommendations to Cabinet on any actions that the City Council can take as a means of controlling the impact of HMOs and in managing the expectations of local communities.

(v) **Review of the Statutory Basis of City Council Services ISG**

This ISG has yet to formally convene, although some preliminary work has been undertaken with regard to the suggested scope of the scrutiny investigation:

‘To help clarify whether the legislative requirements for services (statutory or discretionary) was meaningful in helping the Council to determine the basis for any future service reviews’.

**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:**

3. **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND CHANGE PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):**

When establishing Informal Scrutiny Groups, the Committee should be satisfied that these arrangements are supporting or scrutinising the delivery of the Council’s priorities, or working towards identifying future priorities.

4 **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

Scrutiny is currently undertaken within the existing staffing resources of the Council.

5 **RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

None specifically.

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

None

**APPENDICES:**

None