

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**      2nd April 2013

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**JOINT TASK GROUP – REVIEW PROPOSAL**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Phil Mould, Corporate Management
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service for Overview and Scrutiny	Claire Felton – Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Wards Affected	All wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	Not applicable
Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

The report outlines a proposal received from Wychavon District Council to undertake a joint scrutiny review of Worcestershire Regulatory Services. Members are invited to consider this proposal and to determine whether Redditch Borough Council should participate in this review.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

- 1) **Redditch Borough Council Scrutiny Members participate in the joint scrutiny of Worcestershire Regulatory Services; and**
- 2) **the terms of reference for the proposed review of Worcestershire Regulatory Services, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.**

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Background**

- 3.1 In April 2012 Wychavon District Council's Scrutiny Committee established that there was a desire from both Members of that Committee and Wychavon District Council as a whole to conduct a scrutiny review of Worcestershire Regulatory Services.
- 3.2 Interest was gauged informally with all the other Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny within Worcestershire. Chairs from all of the shared service partner authorities, with the exception of Worcestershire County Council, showed interest in participating in the proposed joint venture.

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- 3.3 Wychavon District Council have produced draft terms of reference (attached at Appendix 1) relating to the joint scrutiny of Worcestershire Regulatory Services. Subject to these being agreed, it is anticipated that the scrutiny exercise would commence in the 2013/14 municipal year.
- 3.4 Any joint scrutiny would need to be conducted in line with the Joint Protocol (attached at Appendix 2), which was endorsed by the Committee in 2011. In accordance with that protocol Bromsgrove District Council, as the host authority for Worcestershire Regulatory Services, would facilitate the joint scrutiny investigation.
- 3.5 Members are asked to note that the Joint Task Group will be made up of one representative from each of the district Councils' Overview and Scrutiny Committees. There will also be one nominated substitute for each authority. Either the main representative or the substitute representative for Redditch Borough Council will need to be the Chair or Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In line with standard practice the nominations to these positions will be confirmed at the annual meeting of Council in May 2013.

**Financial Implications**

- 3.6 There are no financial implications directly relating to this report. However, if the proposal is accepted, any implications would be considered as part of the subsequent investigation.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.7 There are no legal implications directly relating to this report. However, if the proposal is accepted, any implications would be considered as part of the subsequent investigation.
- 3.8 Paragraph 12.5 of the formal Shared Service Partnership agreement states that "*Member Authorities will liaise about requests from their Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Audit Committees and shall use reasonable endeavours to agree joint scrutiny arrangements with a view to avoiding duplication of effort*".

**Service/Operation Implications**

- 3.9 The Head of Regulatory Services is aware of the proposed scrutiny and timescale.
- 3.10 The Council's Democratic Services team, as a shared service with Bromsgrove District Council, will lead on arrangements and support for the exercise. This may impact on our ability to support other scrutiny

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Task Groups which might run concurrently with this. We will alert Members to this if such a situation arises.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.11 There are no customer service, equalities or diversity implications to this report.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

A scrutiny of the shared service will help to increase understanding of how it works for Councillors and the public. This contributes to being transparent about how public services are run and governed.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Overview and Scrutiny Proposal, Wychavon District Council.

Appendix 2 – Framework for Joint Overview and Scrutiny in Worcestershire 2011

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**7. KEY**

None

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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