

SCRUTINY PROPOSAL - THE WORCESTERSHIRE HUB

Summary

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) is asked to consider a scrutiny proposal to establish a scrutiny task group to look at the Worcestershire Hub.

Background

2. Following a Notice of Motion put to the meeting of the County Council on 25 June 2009, stating that 'Residents are becoming increasingly frustrated at the difficulty in accessing the Hub and obtaining a response to their enquiries'. The topic was added to the OSPB's long list of suggested issues for scrutiny.

3. Consequently, the OSPB at its meeting on 10 September 2009 identified the Worcestershire Hub as a priority for scrutiny and it was included in the Scrutiny Work Programme, which was approved by the County Council at its meeting on 1 October 2009.

4. The OSPB further agreed that the Worcestershire Hub would be subject to an in depth scrutiny exercise and a scrutiny proposal would be developed for further discussion.

Suggested Terms of Reference

5. The suggested terms of reference are to look at:

- The development of the Worcestershire Hub, including the shared service.
- How to make the Worcestershire Hub fit for purpose in the future.
- Differences in provision across Worcestershire, what they are and why they exist?
- What are the gaps in provision and what are the opportunities?

Issues Suitable for Scrutiny

6. The OSPB agreed to use a set of criteria (listed below) to help determine its scrutiny programme. A topic does not need to meet all of these criteria in order to be scrutinised, but they are intended as a guide for prioritisation.

- Is the issue a priority area for the Council?
- Is it a key issue for local people?
- Will it be practicable to implement the outcomes of the scrutiny?
- Are improvements for local people likely?
- Does it examine a poor performing service?
- Will it result in improvements to the way the Council operates?
- Is it related to new Government guidance or legislation?

Next Steps

7. Other points which need to be taken into account when considering whether to review a particular issue are:

- is the subject specific? – to ensure that task groups understand exactly what they are scrutinising; and
- is it achievable within a realistic timescale?

8. Members are asked to take into account issues raised in paragraphs 6 and 7 above and determine whether they wish to set up a scrutiny task group on the Worcestershire Hub and if so to consider, comment on and agree the terms of reference for the scrutiny.

Supporting Papers

Appendix 1 - Scrutiny Proposal: The Worcestershire Hub

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

Worcester (01905) 763763, Kidderminster (01562) 822511 or Minicom: Worcester (01905) 766399

Specific Contact Points for this Report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Corporate Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.

- Agenda papers and minutes relating to the meeting of the County Council on 25 June 2009; and
- Agenda papers and minutes relating to the OSPB meeting on 10 September 2009.