11.   **SCRUTINY IN 2007/08 (A.11412/RMM)**

Proposal

1   This report asks Members to:

(a)   Agree the recommendations from the Audit and Performance Committee on two topics for scrutiny in 2007/08.

(b)   Nominate and agree scrutiny team membership.

2   **RECOMMENDATION:**

1.   **That the proposed scrutiny topics for 2007/08 of 'Recreation Management' and 'Strategic Review of Recreation Policy' are agreed as recommended by the Audit and Performance Committee**

2.   **That a chair for each team is nominated and appointed from Members of the Audit and Performance Committee**

3.   **That up to three Members are nominated and appointed to join each team (six in total).**

Policy/Legal Background

3   In 2006 the Audit and Performance Committee approved scrutiny guidelines and a process flowchart (minute ref: 16/06). The flowchart is given again at Annex 1.

Key Issues

4   Audit and Performance Committee Members considered a list of possible topics for scrutiny which had been identified at a previous workshop in January.   From this list they identified two topics for scrutiny teams in 2007/08 (minute ref: 23/07). These topics are:

(a)   Recreation Management – defined at the workshop as needing to look at partnerships across constituent councils re: footpaths, access and Rights of Way with common agreements on funding and best practice

(b)   Strategic Review of Recreation Policy

5   Two chairs need to be appointed to lead the teams. This is normally done by Audit and Performance Committee from the membership of that Committee but was left until the Authority meeting because of the changes in membership.

6   Members are asked to nominate up to three more Members for each scrutiny team. The guidelines suggest that these should be nominated to achieve a balance of members in terms of skills and knowledge and member role (e.g. Secretary of State, parishes, Councillors). It would be appropriate to include the Member Representative for Sport and Recreation too if appointed at the July meeting.

7   The next steps following the appointment of the teams are:

a)   Scrutiny teams to complete brief defining anticipated outcomes and rationale for scrutiny. It is proposed that the chairs of the scrutiny teams should call upon the Director of Corporate Resources initially to give details of the toolkit

available to the teams and to discuss the type and amount of support needed and the proposed timeline for the work so that this can subsequently be part of the next step of:

b)   Management Team considers brief and allocates resources required/available and advises scrutiny chair

APPENDIX

Background

1   At the workshop in January members identified a number of areas which were possible topics for scrutiny in 2007/08. These were identified from material which was provided on the day covering:

        (a)   Performance information including progress against the Performance Improvement Plan, performance indicator results, Audit reports

        (b)   Customer and staff feedback and surveys

        (c)   Issues raised within service reviews or arising from cross-cutting activities and functions

        (d)   Corporate development needs including budget and efficiency drivers, the corporate risk register and organisational plans and strategies such as the asset management plan and performance improvement plans

2   On the day members prioritised a long list of 10 topics by looking at each topic's potential impact on:

        ●   Achieving corporate outcomes.
        ●   The well being of staff, customers or members.
        ●   The reputation of the Authority
        ●   Delivery of projects and partnerships
        ●   The Authority's resources

3   The Audit and Performance Committee then considered the six topics which were at the top of this list and the action already being taken alongside each entry.

        Resources

4   All work proposed will be funded from the 2007/08 budget. Support to scrutiny will be assessed within these resources as part of developing and agreeing the brief. Democratic Services staff are available to help Scrutiny teams.

        Risk Management

5   The following risks have been identified as part of the risk assessment:

        (a)   Failure to achieve continuous performance improvement

        (b)   Failure to support Members in carrying out their strengthened scrutiny and constructive challenge remit as agreed as part of the governance review.

        (c)   Failure to embed performance management within the culture of the organisation

6   To mitigate the risks identified it is proposed that we should continue to review the effectiveness of the process and performance improvement outcomes of scrutiny teams. For 2007/08 the evaluation will seek feedback specifically from Members and staff involved in the next two teams.

Human Rights, Equal Opportunities, Health & Safety

7   These have been considered and here are no issues to highlight

Consultees

8   The Management Team have been consulted on the report.

Enclosures

9   Annex 1: Scrutiny Flowchart

List of Background Papers (not previously published)

10   None

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12   28 June 2007