

EXTRACT FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 28TH OCTOBER 2009

40. SCRUTINISING LAA IMPROVEMENT TARGETS – LOCAL AUTHORITIES (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES)

The Scrutiny Manager presented a report concerning new regulations introduced by the Government to widen the role of District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees in scrutinising Local Area Agreement improvement targets.

The new powers (which came into force on 12th August 2009) are as follows:-

- * The District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee may make reports and recommendations to the County Council on matters relating to a local improvement target;
- * The County Council will be required to respond to the District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee report or recommendations within two months;
- * Partner authorities to which the target relates will be required to have regard to reports and recommendations from the District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was noted that the scrutiny of LAA targets is not mandatory, and that the Committee has discretion to decide locally, within the parameters of the regulations, what it wants to do in the way of scrutiny. This would also be dependent on the resources that the Committee has available.

In discussing this item, the Committee felt that given the increase in new scrutiny powers this year it would need to keep capacity issues under review both in terms of the workload of the Committee and that of the Scrutiny Manager.

DECISION

It is **RECOMMENDED** to Cabinet that:-

- (1) the Overview and Scrutiny Committee develops a protocol on working practices with the Braintree District Local Strategic Partnership to ensure that the scrutiny process for the scrutiny of LAA improvement targets is effective and efficient;
- (2) the functions and terms of reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to the scrutiny of LAAs improvement targets be incorporated in the Council's constitution.