

## SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP

At a meeting held in the Monkfield Room at 2pm on 7 September 2006.

PRESENT: Cllr Roger Hall [Chairman]  
Cllr Cicely Murfitt  
Cllr Hazel Smith  
Cllr Richard Summerfield

Patrick Adams

Senior Democratic Services Officer

### 1. APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Councillors Bob Bryant, Liz Heazell, Mark Howell, Peter Johnson, Sebastian Kindersley, Mike Mason and Susan van de Ven.

### 2. TRAINING

- 2.1 The Sub-Group examined the details of the LGIU scrutiny training course which had been offered to the Council free of charge. Concern was expressed regarding the applicability of the course and the amount of officer time that could be expended on attempting to tailor the course to this Council. It was noted that Councillor Mark Howell was against officer time being used in this way.

- 2.2 The Sub-Group

### 2.3 RECOMMENDED TO THE COMMITTEE

- (a) that the files which comprised the five modules of this course be sent to Scrutiny Members by instalments;
- (b) that one module to be sent in October and then two in both November and December.

### 3. WEBPAGE

- 3.1 The Sub-Group discussed the report which proposed improvements in the Scrutiny web-page. Councillor Hall agreed to amend the two paragraphs under the heading "purpose of Committee" and present the new text to the next meeting of the Sub-Group. It was suggested that the style and layout of the current webpage could be more user friendly.

- 3.2 The Sub-Group suggested that a consultancy feature should be added to the webpage that allowed members of the public to prioritise the items on the forward programme and so influence what the Committee discusses. The webpage should also encourage feedback on the minutes of the meetings. It was agreed that Members would need to review the different options available to ensure that its recommendations were deliverable.

- 3.3 The Sub-Group

- 3.4 **AGREED** that Councillors R Hall and Mrs HM Smith should examine this issue, with guidance from officers, and report back to the next meeting of the Sub-Group.

**4. LAYOUT OF THE COMMITTEE**

4.1 The Group considered the venue and room set-up for the Committee and

4.2 **RECOMMENDED TO THE CHAIRMAN** that the Committee should revert to a U-shaped layout with a table at the end to allow external representatives to address the Committee.

The meeting ended at 3:30pm