

REPORT TO: Cabinet

DATE: 4 February 2010

SUBJECT: Executive Response to Overview & Scrutiny Final Reports

WARDS AFFECTED: None Directly

REPORT OF: Samantha Tunney, Assistant Chief Executive

CONTACT OFFICER: Debbie Campbell, Acting Head of Overview & Scrutiny,
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**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To advise Members of a request from the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board, proposing that when a Cabinet Member or Cabinet consider a final report from Overview & Scrutiny Working Group, that they be requested to in future, produce an executive response, compiled by the relevant Service Director and Cabinet Member, to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

The Overview & Scrutiny Management Board has recommended this proposal to the Cabinet. The Leaders Group previously considered the matter, and noted it would be submitted to Cabinet for approval. This recommendation is one of a number which are contained in an Action Plan which has been developed following a visit to Tameside Council, as a means of developing the Overview and Scrutiny Function

It is considered that the production of an Executive response would enhance the scrutiny function within Sefton.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That an Executive response to Overview & Scrutiny Working Group Final Reports be produced in future, by the relevant Service Director and Cabinet Member and submitted to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

KEY DECISION: NO

FORWARD PLAN: NO

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following the expiry of the call-in period for the Minutes of this meeting

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Not to implement an Executive response.
However, implementation is considered to be good practice.

IMPLICATIONS:**Budget/Policy Framework:****Financial:**

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report.

Legal: N/A

Risk Assessment: N/A

Asset Management: N/A

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

Referred to Leaders previously for consideration.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2	Creating Safe Communities		√	
3	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being		√	
5	Environmental Sustainability		√	
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		√	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8	Children and Young People		√	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

None

BACKGROUND

1. During October 2009 a number of Overview & Scrutiny Members from Sefton Council visited Tameside MBC, to meet and hold discussions with Scrutiny Members from that Authority. Tameside is considered to be a Beacon Council in terms of its Overview & Scrutiny function.
2. The visit was highly successful and has prompted discussions around a number of possible areas where Sefton Scrutiny Members are currently considering changes and enhancements.
3. One of the areas that interested Members was the fact that Tameside produce an Executive response to Overview & Scrutiny Final Reports. An example is attached to this report for information at **Appendix A**.
4. Sefton Scrutiny Members felt that they would wish to adopt an approach along similar lines to the example from Tameside MBC, which is considered to be good practice.
5. Scrutiny Members are of the view that this approach would enable detailed action plans to be developed for the implementation of Working Group Final Report and avoid any possibility of recommendations being overlooked.
6. It is considered that having the Executive response compiled by both the relevant Service Director and Cabinet Member would “add weight” to the response and seek to ensure the implementation of any Working Group recommendations.
7. The Overview & Scrutiny Management Board has considered the matter and agreed to recommend the Cabinet to produce an Executive response to Overview and Scrutiny Working Group Final Reports. The Board also requested the recommendation be referred to a Leaders’ meeting, for consideration, which has duly taken place.
8. Other recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board regarding the development of the scrutiny function have recently been considered by the Leaders Group, with comment. The Leaders were of the view that the function should continue to be developed, and were generally supportive of the approach being taken by those members, but made some observations on the several proposals brought to the Leaders attention.
9. The Cabinet is now requested to consider the matter.

RECOMMENDATION

That an Executive response to Overview & Scrutiny Working Group Final Reports be produced in future, by the relevant Service Director and Cabinet Member and submitted to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee.