

Item 11(i)

**Report of the
MANAGEMENT O & S
COMMITTEE**

Chairman

Cllr B.O.Earp

At the O & S Management Committee meeting held on the 4th October 2007, four important subjects were considered, namely: -

1. Prejudicial Interest arising at O & S Committees.
2. Scrutiny of Carlisle Renaissance.
3. Information only reports to O & S Committees.
4. O & S Improvement Plan 2005-7 and the future of the Management O & S Committee

The legal position, regarding Prejudicial Interests, as laid down in the new Code of Conduct (paragraph 11), and adopted by Council on the 17th July 2007, was explained by the Head of Democratic Services. RESOLVED that a copy of the Committee Report be sent to all Council Members.

In the past, Scrutiny of Carlisle Renaissance primarily focussed on monitoring rather than policy development. In order for Scrutiny to have more influence in Policy and Project Development, earlier involvement is necessary. This could be through Workshops and Task and Finish Groups. Management O & S allocated Scrutiny to each of the Scrutiny Committees as follows: -

- a) Community O & S – Economic Strategy (People)
- b) Corporate O & S – Funding, Governance and Performance
- c) Infrastructure O & S – Development Framework and Movement Strategy including – Capital Schemes, Planning Policy, Development Briefs and Economic Strategy (Place and Connections)

All O & S Committees should place on their Agendas items to which Scrutiny can genuinely contribute and discuss. However, there are certain areas of work that Members require to be kept abreast of with information being supplied without the necessity of a review at that time. Members considered four options but decided in favour of "Information Only Reports" within the work programme which is circulated to Members.

The Head of Scrutiny gave the final monitoring report on the O & S Improvement Plan 2005-7. Most of the actions had been completed, and those that had not were modified or an alternate solution found. As the Improvement Plan had been signed off the future of the Management O & S Committee was under consideration. Members were of the opinion that the Management O & S Committee should continue for at least another year to discuss issues that concern the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny. However, if there were no relevant subjects on the agenda, the meeting would be cancelled two weeks prior to the meeting date. The legal and financial details of this decision will need to be taken into account.

On the 9th October 2007, I attended the Cumbria County Joint Scrutiny Overview Group at Whitehaven. The Members discussed three major issues but primarily concentrated on the notes from "Effective Scrutiny and the LAA" Joint Members Workshop held on the 21st September 2007. It was moved that Officers from the Scrutiny Practitioners Network consider the feedback and suggestions from the Joint Member Workshop at their next full meeting and devise a proposed structure/mechanism for developing this Scrutiny work.

Their recommendations would be presented to the Joint Scrutiny Members Group for consideration. AGREED unanimously by the Members, along with the amendment that a special meeting of the Group be called in January 2008, to implement the recommendations prior to the end of the Municipal Year.

The second issue was an update by the Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group which reviewed the Cumbria Strategic Waste Management Partnership. It had been expected that their December 2007 Meeting would be the last. However, a decision was taken that future monitoring exercises would be carried out by the County Council's Environmental Panel.

The third and final issue was the current Task and Finish Group's review of car parking policies for the County. It had been anticipated that the review would be ready for completion by the end of October 2007. Unfortunately, the Task and Finish Group has yet to agree its final scope and timetable. However, the wording of the draft policies and the questionnaire should be available for consideration by the Joint County Scrutiny Overview Group at their meeting in January 2008.

AGREED that the Car Parking Task and Finish Group undertake a limited review of the parking policies for the County.

The next meeting of the Group will be January 2008 in Penrith. Date and time to be confirmed.

Cllr B.O. Earp
Chairman Management O & S Committee
23rd October 2007