

Item 11(i)

**Report of the
Management O & S
Committee**

**Chairman
Cllr B. O. Earp**

This report has to be delivered to the Legal and Democratic Officer by the 16th April which is unfortunate as the next meeting will be held on the 17th.

I attended the County Joint Scrutiny Overview Committee meeting in Penrith on the 19th March 2008.

The Agenda items were:-

1. Joint Car Parking Policies

Verbal update on the report of the work undertaken by the Task and Finish Group during 2007/8

2. Scrutiny of the new style Local Area Agreement (L.A.A.)

It is proposed that a new, refocused, strategic County Joint Overview Scrutiny Committee be formed, taking effect from June 2008, to replace the existing joint arrangements. This Committee will function along similar lines to the County's Joint Health and Well-being Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee's remit will be: -

- a) Provide strategic scrutiny challenge of the L.A.A. with mechanisms in place to lead and deliver it.
- b) Receive performance monitoring data for the L.A.A. by linking into the Cumbria Strategic Partnership (C.S.P.) performance reporting cycle. Also identifying issues for joint review and/or alerting Districts to local pockets of underperformance.
- c) Monitor "Councillor Call for Actions" at each Authority and/or identify joint pieces of Scrutiny work arising from the "Councillor Call for Action" process.
- d) Continue to consider the Management and co-ordination of "joint scrutiny" across the County.

- e) Receive “concerns” from any of the Authorities Scrutiny Committees or areas of under-performance locally.
- f) Provide a co-ordination forum for reports on the L.A.A. in response to the new Powers of Districts to submit reports to the County on L.A.A. matters. This would avoid the risks of duplication of scrutiny work between Authorities.

An additional proposal is that the new Joint Scrutiny Committee be properly resourced, and, managed by a full-time dedicated officer with administrative support. Recommended that the member Authorities of Cumbria Local Authorities Strategic Board (C.L.A.S.B.) be asked to consider providing funding for this Joint Initiative using C.L.A.S.B. partnership funding protocol.

The new “Councillor Call for Action” was also discussed for which guidance from Central Government is expected later in the year. There needs to be a requirement for clarity in two-tier areas in order to avoid duplication and confusion. It is proposed to adopt a form common to all Authorities in Cumbria and accompanied by common guidance and contact details for all the Authorities.

Future arrangements for Joint Scrutiny of the new L.A.A., together with the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report, are the main Agenda items for the forthcoming meeting of the Management O & S Committee on the 17th April 2008. Discussions will take place regarding the future of the Management O & S Committee as to whether it will continue in its present form or a different format. The Action Plan has been completed. Perhaps a smaller group consisting of the “Chairs” of the other three O & S Committees could meet in an “ad hoc” way as and when necessary. A report of the meeting will be given at the first Council Meeting in the new Municipal Year.

My thanks to all the Management O & S Committee Members for their input to the debates and also to the dedicated work of the Officers and Administration staff during the last twelve months.

Cllr B. O. Earp
Chairman