

**Subject:** Evaluation of the Scrutiny Process at Rossendale Borough Council      **Status:** For Publication

**Report to:** Cabinet      **Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> July 2010

**Report of:** Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

**Portfolio**

**Holder:** Finance and Resources

**Key Decision:** No

Forward Plan       General Exception       Special Urgency

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To report to the Cabinet the findings of an evaluation of the Overview and Scrutiny process in Rossendale.

**2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:-

- Delivering quality Services to our customers
- Delivering regeneration across the Borough
- Encouraging healthy and respectful communities
- Keeping our Borough clean, green and safe
- Promoting the Borough
- Providing value for money services

**3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- No risks identified as Overview and Scrutiny contributes to achieving openness and accountability.
- Without the scrutiny function the Council would be at risk of a potential increased number of call-ins on decisions made by Cabinet.

#### **4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee instructed the Scrutiny Support Officer to undertake an evaluation of the Overview and Scrutiny function at Rossendale Borough Council
- 4.2 The findings from this self-evaluation are intended to be used as the basis for developing Overview and Scrutiny further.
- 4.3 It was also agreed to undertake an evaluation of Scrutiny, from an Officer perspective to seek their views on how they feel the scrutiny process worked
- 4.4 Acknowledging that each Local Authority carries out its Overview and Scrutiny function in a different way, and with there being no objective measure by which its success can be assessed, the CfPS developed its self-evaluation framework.
- 4.5 The CfPS's self evaluation framework provides a mechanism for Local Authorities to demonstrate the effectiveness of Overview and Scrutiny and to identify and demonstrate achievements, identify areas for improvement and highlight any potential barriers to improvement within the Council.
- 4.6 The framework reflects the four principles for effective scrutiny as follows:-
- Providing a 'critical friend' challenge
  - Reflecting the public voice
  - Leading and owning the process
  - Making an impact

#### **COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

##### **5. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

- 5.1 There are no significant financial implications arising. Any that do arise will be met from existing resources.

##### **6. MONITORING OFFICER**

- 6.1 No legal comments.

##### **7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)**

- 7.1 No HR Implications.

##### **8. CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 Whilst there has been significant progress in the way the Scrutiny function works at Rossendale, the report highlights a number of areas that Overview and Scrutiny can improve further.

**9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That Cabinet note the recommendations within the appended report, especially in relation to 9.1 (a) and (b).

**10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

10.1 Overview and Scrutiny Members  
Cabinet Members  
Officers of the Council

**11. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Is a Community Impact Assessment required No

Is a Community Impact Assessment attached No

**12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required No

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached No

<b>Contact Officer</b>	
Name	Pat Couch
Position	Scrutiny Support Officer
Service / Team	Democratic Services
Telephone	01706 252426
Email address	patriciacouch@rossendalebc.gov.uk

No background papers