

**COMMITTEE:** HEALTH SCRUTINY

**DATE:** 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 2006

**REPORT OF:** ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (STRATEGY,  
PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE)

**REPORT TITLE:** THE FUTURE ROLE OF ADVISERS IN THE ADULTS AND  
COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution provides that, with the exception of the four Education representatives that are required by law to be co-opted onto the Scrutiny Committee responsible for Education matters, co-opted members cannot be appointed to Scrutiny Committees or panels. However, the facility does exist for committees to invite individuals to attend meetings either for specific items or generally as advisers.
- 1.2 At its meeting on 12 June 2006 the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee considered a report discussing the future role of expert advisors. It was suggested that, given the introduction of a revised scrutiny committee structure this municipal year, it is an opportune time to review existing arrangements for advisers in scrutiny and agree a future role.

## **2.0 The future role of advisers in the adults and communities**

- 2.1 It is good practice to involve the public in scrutiny and all overview and scrutiny committees should seek to invite input from relevant groups, either as part of the committee or by giving evidence to the committee (on a relevant service area review or report).
- 2.2 The broad remit of the Council's Scrutiny Committees and range of relevant groups that might have an input suggests that it may not be manageable or appropriate for all groups to be present as advisers to the committee at all meetings and to speak on matters generally. It is therefore recommended that relevant advisers from relevant groups be invited to speak on matters relating to their area of interest/expertise when relevant agenda items are scheduled or where they can have a significant contribution to a relevant service area review.
- 2.3 The decision to invite an adviser would be delegated to the Chair of the committee with advice from the Scrutiny Officer and on the basis of relevant topics featuring in the committee's work and agenda programmes. Therefore, for example, Age Concern may be invited to attend meetings and to speak as advisers on matters relating to older people and adults social services. This would not preclude any member of a local interest group being present at

meetings of the committee as members of the public as all overview and scrutiny committee meetings are open to the public.

2.4 The Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed:

(1) That advisers be invited to attend meetings of that Scrutiny Committee and speak only on matters relating to their area of interest/expertise when relevant agenda items are scheduled or when they can make a significant contribution to a relevant service area review.

(2) That the decision to invite an adviser be delegated to the Chair of that Scrutiny Committee, in consultation with the Scrutiny Officer on the basis of relevant topics featuring in the Scrutiny Committee's work and agenda programmes.

2.5 At its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2006, Minute No. 6, Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee resolved that Scrutiny Committees be recommended to adopt the above approach with regard to the role of advisers.

### **3.0 Recommendation**

**3.1 The Committee is requested to indicate whether it agrees with the approach suggested by Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee.**

**3.2 For information, the Chair and Vice-Chair of Health Scrutiny Committee have agreed to invite Stockport's Patient and Public Involvement Forums to each meeting of the Committee.**

**3.3 If there are particular community or interest groups that the Committee feel should be invited to future meetings members should notify the Chair.**