

Agenda Item No: 11

Committee:	Scrutiny Committee for Education
Date:	23 July 2001
Title of Report:	<u>Scrutiny reviews for 2001-02</u>
By:	Scrutiny Lead Officer
Purpose of Report:	To seek the views of members on whether they wish to: a. retain the programme of scrutiny reviews agreed by previous scrutiny committees for 2001-2002, or b. identify alternative areas for review.

Recommendation:

For the committee to decide on a programme of scrutiny reviews from July 2001

1. Introduction and background information

- 1.1 During the life of the previous six cross-service scrutiny committees a number of possible scrutiny reviews were chosen to be undertaken during 2001/02. The identified reviews reflect the issues that were of particular concern to members at that time and are, in the main, reviews of some services provided by each of the five departments of the County Council.
- 1.2 For the purposes of this report, the reviews have been re-organised into the committee structure agreed by County Council on 19 June 2001 and are listed in Appendix One. This re-allocation shows the likely programme of scrutiny reviews should the committee decide to retain some or all of them.
- 1.3 With the change of structure to four scrutiny committees, in particular the move to committees which relate specifically to core services delivered by the County Council, members are asked to consider if the programme of reviews is still relevant and appropriate.
- 1.4 In coming to a decision on what the future scrutiny review programme should be members may wish to take into consideration:-
 - The contribution of scrutiny to policy development;
 - the key issues within the Education Department identified by the Lead Cabinet Member/Chief Officer earlier in this agenda;
 - matters relating to the Forward Plan;
 - the likely effects of call-in;
 - individual member involvement in best value review project boards;

- the forward timescale appropriate for a pre-planned programme of reviews.
 - The resources needed (both member and officer time) to carry out reviews.
- 1.5 The committee will want to find an appropriate balance between having some structure to the programme whilst retaining the flexibility to deal with the issues identified in paragraph 1.4 as they arise. To achieve this members may wish to identify one planned scrutiny review to be in the programme at any one time, though there is no obligation to do so. If this were to be adopted a new scrutiny review could be added as the previous review drew to a conclusion. In this way a rolling programme of planned scrutiny reviews could be adopted which ‘dove-tailed’ with the other reactive and policy development work.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Members are asked to discuss the identified programme of reviews taking into account the changed structure of scrutiny committees and other information available in order to decide
- a) whether they wish to retain any or all of the current scrutiny reviews;
 - b) whether to identify new areas for review;
 - c) whether to adopt the proposal outlined in paragraph 1.5

Roger B. Howarth
Scrutiny Lead Officer

tel. 01273 481327

email roger.howarth@eastsussexcc.gov.uk

2 August 2001

APPENDIX ONE

Relevant committee and title of scrutiny review (“S”)	Key dates & “traffic light” indicator of progress towards completion by end March 2002	Members of Project Board (Where appointed)	Scrutiny Lead Officer (Initial Contact) and Project Manager (where identified)
<p><i>Education</i></p>			<p>Roger Howarth</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils in schools with Challenging behaviour – (S) 	<p>Originally suggested that a PID would go to December 19th 2001 Committee Completion by March 2002</p>	<p>If review went ahead the project board would be appointed at the December mtg</p>	<p>To be appointed</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision for ethnic minority pupils and services for travellers 	<p>No decisions</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education of Children in Public Care (S) 	<p>Originally suggested that a PID would come to this July Committee Completion by December 19th 2001</p>	<p>If review went ahead some preparatory work has been carried out in terms of a pre-review position statement. It could therefore begin in September 2001</p>	<p>To be appointed</p>

