

		AGENDA ITEM 7
		PSEG/18/15
Committee:	Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	22 October 2015	
PERFORMANCE REPORTING TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEES		
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The Scrutiny Board has been considering how to make best use of performance information that will be made available to each Scrutiny Committee this autumn.

Scrutiny has a key role relating to ‘post-decision scrutiny’ and scrutinising performance of the Council’s Executive. In a commissioning environment scrutiny committees should continue to be involved in monitoring of the organisation’s performance, and should start to do this through the lens of the commissioning strategy indicators and deliverables. In the language of commissioning this is about ‘reviewing’ the implementation of the strategies and ultimately the effectiveness of the executive’s commissioning decisions.

The Scrutiny Board agreed the following principles with regard to how the Scrutiny Committee Chairmen would wish to see and use performance data by the Scrutiny Committees:

- Not to overload members with too much performance data, so that they are able to engage with the data and use it to scrutinise, rather than be overwhelmed;
- To follow East Sussex’s method of editing existing corporate reports so that the committee only has to read about areas relevant to their scrutiny remit; and
- To ensure that the use of performance data encourages participation and debate rather than creating the effect of a lecture to members.

In line with these principles the following reports will be produced:

- An **annual overview report** on the progress made towards delivering ECC’s corporate outcomes as measured by the corporate outcome indicators, lifted from the Corporate Impact Report but with less commentary, will be submitted to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.
- A **twice-yearly more detailed report** on performance against the corporate outcomes indicators and key performance measures will be provided for each

Scrutiny Committee. These reports will be based on part of the Corporate Impact Report that is considered by the Political Leadership Team (PLT).

Various performance monitoring by Scrutiny has taken place in the past with varying degrees of success. It is suggested that this Committee could trial a new approach to the consideration of such reports as follows:

- The circulation of the performance reports as they become available, with the onus upon Members to identify what questions they have for Cabinet Members based upon the data set out in those reports, and
- depending upon whether or not a formal meeting is imminent and the actual nature of the issues raised, then responses will be given in writing or by inviting the relevant Cabinet Members to a meeting.

In the first instance it is proposed that the Performance and Business Intelligence Team be invited to the next formal meeting of the Committee to provide an overview of the County Council's Performance Management Framework, and the information that is being produced for the Scrutiny Committees.

Action required by the Committee:

To seek an overview of the performance information that is to be provided to the Committee in due course, and

to consider the question and answer approach now proposed for the scrutiny of the forthcoming performance reports being made available to Committee.
