



### 3. Background

In June 2008, all the Scrutiny Committees of all 6 Somerset Authorities agreed to establish two joint scrutiny reviews on a 'pilot' basis. The purpose of the pilot was to establish the effectiveness of Joint reviews and to evaluate the impact such joint scrutiny work would have on both officer and member resources.

It was agreed that the two topics for the initial reviews would be Kerbside Recycling (Sort it! Plus trials) and the Pioneer Somerset project. Somerset County Council officers led on supporting the Pioneer Somerset Review and officers here at South Somerset District Council led on the review of kerbside recycling.

The full details of how each review progressed can be found in the final reports of each review attached at appendices A and B to this report.

Prior to the commencement of the review of kerbside recycling, it became apparent that several authorities had decided to review this matter on an individual authority basis primarily due to the fact that the outcomes of the trial had different financial implications for each authority and as such the topic did not naturally lend itself to joint scrutiny work.

Therefore the scope of the review was changed to looking at the performance of the Somerset Waste Partnership over it's first full year of operation and issues that would effect the partnership over the immediate and medium term future. Further details of the scope and project plan can be found in appendix B to this report.

As the attached final reports state, both Joint Scrutiny Reviews were conducted on an informal basis due to constitutional restraints and therefore, any recommendations made by either of the reviews must be ratified by the formal scrutiny committees of each partner authority. It was also agreed in June last year that members of each authority would be given the opportunity to evaluate the success of the joint scrutiny work and make recommendations for the future.

Somerset County Council's Scrutiny Committee considered a similar report to this at their meeting on February 24 2009 and a copy of the minutes of that meeting are attached at Appendix C to this report for members' information.

**Background Papers:** Appendices – Review of Pioneer Somerset  
Final Report – Review of Somerset Waste Partnership

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