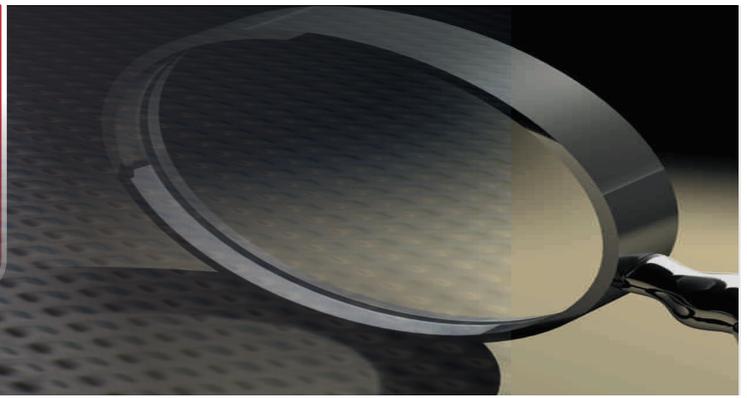


SCRUTINY

NEWSLETTER



SCRUTINY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 13

SUMMER 2011

introduction

The **August 2011** edition of the Overview and Scrutiny Newsletter is the thirteenth production and in it we would like to update you on the latest developments on scrutiny here in Northampton. We also want to alert you to reports and meetings, which may be of interest to you.

Chair's welcome

the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

As the newly appointed Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee I am very much looking forward to leading Overview and Scrutiny and I am eager to promote the good work of Overview and Scrutiny wider.

I acknowledge the good work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton to date and I am pleased to note that a number of our Scrutiny Reviews and Policies have been noted externally as examples of best practice.

Overview and Scrutiny is a key part of the Council's governance arrangements. It is responsible for holding the Cabinet to account. It helps to develop policy, looking at improving performance and dealing with other issues - not just those related to Council services, but also those of partner agencies - all with the aim of improving services for local people. Overview and Scrutiny perform this latter role through the in depth Scrutiny Reviews, speaking with expert witnesses and making recommendations about how Services can be improved.

We asked the citizens of Northampton to suggest topics for Scrutiny Reviews. We were really pleased that over thirty suggestions were put forward which were considered at the annual Work Shop event on 6th June 2011. From these suggestions, Cabinet's priorities for the year and suggestions put forward by individual non-Executives, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved its work programme for the year at its recent meeting (detailed below). I look forward to keeping you updated on progress.

I hope that you find this newsletter useful and informative. Overview and Scrutiny encourages members of the public, groups and organisations to attend its Committee and Panel meetings. Dates of forthcoming meetings are detailed on the last page of this newsletter.



Councillor Les Marriott
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

How are Scrutiny Reviews carried out?

Scrutiny Panel Reviews are selected from issues which the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers important to the people of Northampton. Scrutiny Panels are led by non-Executive Councillors.

Often individuals and representatives of organisations, who have expertise or have expressed an interest in a particular subject, are co-opted to the Scrutiny Panel for the life of the Review.

Scrutiny Panels are responsible for managing each Review by gathering and taking evidence. At the end of the Review they present their findings to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval.

Scrutiny Activity for 2011/2012

The Overview and Scrutiny work programme for 2011/2012 was recently approved and the three in-depth Reviews that are now underway are: -

- **Hate Crime**
To review the approach to dealing with Hate Crime
- **Independent Living Strategy**
To evaluate the draft Independent Living Strategy for older people and make recommendations for development of this Strategy
- **Councillor Empowerment Fund**
To review the effectiveness of a Councillor Empowerment Fund



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

What happened in Overview and Scrutiny over the last few months?

The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2010/2011 has recently been published and details the good work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committees and its Scrutiny Panels last year.

A short snapshot of the good work during 2010/2011: -

- Increased and thorough pre-decision Scrutiny
- Notable increased public participation in the O&S Process
- Thorough performance management scrutiny
- Decision makers providing important evidence to the Review process
- Non-Executives who are not Scrutiny Members sitting on Scrutiny Panels
- Structured Crime and Disorder Scrutiny
- Four year rolling Training Programme for non-Executives
- Increased co-option of expert advisers to Reviews

Completed Reviews included:-

- Northamptonshire Alcohol Strategy
- Absence Management
- Commissioning Framework for the Voluntary and Community Sector
- Neighbourhood Model
- Lease between Northampton Borough Council, Northampton Town Football Club, Rugby and
- Northampton Athletics Club

Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Panel Dates for your diary

Overview and Scrutiny meetings are publicly advertised and everyone is welcome to attend. All meetings start at 6pm.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 19 September ○ 14 November ○ 1 December 	2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 23 January ○ 26 March ○ 28 May 	
Scrutiny Panel 1 Hate Crime	Scrutiny Panel 2 Independent Living Strategies	Scrutiny Panel 3 Councillor Empowerment Fund
2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7 September ○ 3 October ○ 28 November 	2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 September ○ 19 October ○ 7 December 	2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5 September ○ 29 September ○ 10 October ○ 3 November
2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 6 February 	2012 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 15 February 	

To find out more

 Visit our website:
www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny

 Email: ttiff@northampton.gov.uk
to ask for information

 Or call the **Scrutiny Officer, Tracy Tiff**,
on **01604 837408**

 Copies of all Overview and Scrutiny Review Reports are located at:
www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny

