



## Introduction

The June 2013 edition of the Overview and Scrutiny newsletter is the seventeenth 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 Overview and Scrutiny, I am really looking forward to taking on this new role and am very keen to continue to promote the good work of Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton wider.

Again this year we asked the citizens of Northampton to suggest topics for Scrutiny Reviews. There were in excess of twenty suggestions from the public which were considered by non-Executives at a workshop held in March 2013. From these ideas, Cabinet's priorities for the year and suggestions put forward by Councillors, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved its Work Programme for 2013/2014 at its meeting on 25 April 2013. Future newsletters will keep you updated on the progress of the work of the Scrutiny Panels.

The Overview and Scrutiny newsletter is published three times a year. If you want more details of how Overview and Scrutiny operates at Northampton please contact the Scrutiny Officer who will be very happy to arrange a one to one and provide a full briefing.

I welcome your suggestions and comments on what future editions of the Scrutiny E-newsletter could include.

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 Jamie Lane**  
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee



## Centre for Public Scrutiny

### (CfPS) - Good Scrutiny Awards 2013

Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton was shortlisted for an award as part of the Centre for Public Scrutiny's (CfPS) Good Scrutiny Awards 2013 under the category transforming services for its Review - Managing Community Centres.

Details of this in-depth Scrutiny Review are published on the website.

The judges thought that this work, which facilitated the transfer of a large number of community facilities from council to community control, demonstrated the contribution that scrutiny can make to implementing a key government policy around community asset transfer successfully at local level.

## 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. The report is then presented to Cabinet for its consideration and feedback.





## Scrutiny Activity for 2013/2014

The Overview and Scrutiny work programme for 2013/2014 was recently approved and the following in-depth reviews are now underway are: -

### Improving the Town's Park

To improve community engagement within the town's parks

### Management and Regulation of Private Sector Housing (including HIMOs)

To investigate the regulation and management of private lettings

A further Scrutiny Review will commence its work in January 2014:

### Welfare Reform Act

To evaluate the effect of the Welfare Reform Act on the public and Council employees

## What happened in Overview and Scrutiny over the last twelve months?

The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2012/2013 has recently been published and details the good work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committees and its Scrutiny Panels last year.

A snapshot of the good work during 2012/2013: -

- A number of Councillors, who are not members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee joined the membership of the Scrutiny Panels
- Overview & Scrutiny for Northampton Borough Council continues to show great interest and commitment to Community Safety/Crime and Disorder. The Committee has focused on crime and disorder issues from a public perspective and has worked in partnership with other agencies such as Northamptonshire Police on its Review: Serious acquisitive crime, violent crime and community safety.
- Three in-depth pieces of thorough pre-decision scrutiny

## Completed Reviews for 2012/2013 included:-

- Serious acquisitive crime, violent crime and community safety
- Retail experience
- Infrastructure Requirements and Section 106 Agreements
- Evaluation of Overview and Scrutiny (2012)

## 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

#### 2013

- 25 July
- 9 September
- 11 November

#### 2014

- 27 January
- 7 April
- 9 June

### Scrutiny Panel 1 –

Improving the Town's Parks

- 1 July **2013**
- 5 August
- 4 September
- 2 October
- 25 November

### Scrutiny Panel 2 –

Management and Regulation of Private Sector Housing (HIMOs)

- 8 July **2013**
- 18 September
- 17 October
- 4 December
- 23 January **2014**
- 13 February
- 30 April

### Scrutiny Panel 3 –

Welfare Reform Act

It is anticipated that this Scrutiny Review will start its work in January 2014

## To find out more



Visit our website: [www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny)



Email: [ttiff@northampton.gov.uk](mailto:ttiff@northampton.gov.uk) to ask for more 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](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny)

