

CITY COUNCIL – 14 JULY 2008

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2007-08

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Nottingham's Overview and Scrutiny was described in last year's Corporate Assessment as "strong", adding "value to performance review and policy development" and "making an important contribution to the Council's effectiveness". Our service is acknowledged as exhibiting good practice and over this past year we have on several occasions again been sought out to guide overview and scrutiny development in other authorities. The success achieved has been endorsed by the review undertaken on our behalf this year by Professor Steve Leach of De Montfort University, an expert in overview and scrutiny, who found "a range of strengths" and that it "adds value in a number of different ways".
- 1.2 Our relationship with partners throughout the City continues to develop and I hope that the work done with them is of benefit to organisations such as NHS Trusts and One Nottingham. Indeed Professor Leach, in interviewing a number of partners for his review, said that there was "a positive attitude by partner organisations (especially health partners) to their involvement in overview and scrutiny and the robust but civilised nature of the challenge they receive at meetings". We look forward to working with a broader range of partners this year as the new legislation rolls out.
- 1.3 As ever, in choosing topics for scrutiny, our aim is to support the priorities of the Council and City and to make recommendations which will result in positive outcomes and improvements. This year we have increased the number of spotlight reviews which focus on specific service areas and issues over a short period with recommendations of a practical nature aimed to take us forward.

1.4 I would like to record the thanks of the Council to all those involved in Overview and Scrutiny; the Executive and partner organisations who provide information and receive and respond to our comments and recommendations, expert witnesses who provide our members with professional insights into topics under review, the representatives of interest groups and members of the public who contribute to our evidence gathering and who sit on our committees for reviews from time to time. And, of course, to officers of the Council who support our work.

1.5 I am pleased to present to Council the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2007-08.

The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report has been circulated as a separate document with the Full Council agenda.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2007-08 be accepted.

3. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

None.

4. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

Reports, agenda and minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, standing and task and finish panels produced during the municipal year 2007-08.

**COUNCILLOR MALCOLM WOOD
CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**