

introduction

The **September 2010** edition of the Overview and Scrutiny Newsletter is the twelfth 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

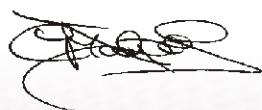
the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that **Overview and Scrutiny works on behalf of residents to highlight issues of concern and make recommendations for improvement to the Council's Cabinet and/or full Council and local partners. To fulfil this role, Scrutiny Councillors carry out in-depth Reviews; details of Reviews currently underway are provided later within this Newsletter.**

Training is vital for Scrutiny to continue to be effective. I am pleased to say that Member Development is taken very seriously at Northampton and as part of this a dedicated four-year rolling training programme for Overview and Scrutiny was introduced last year. I am delighted that Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder has been included within the Overview and Scrutiny Training Programme for this year and will be facilitated by an expert in this field, Ed Hammonds, of the Centre for Public Scrutiny. I would urge our Scrutiny Councillors to attend this important session. It has been agreed that this session will be open to Scrutiny Councillors and Scrutiny Managers/Officers from neighbouring Authorities at a small fee of £25 per delegate. For further details on this development session please contact Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer.

The Overview and Scrutiny Newsletter is published three times a year and I hope that you find it both useful and interesting. If you want to know more details, Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, can arrange a one-to-one to provide a full briefing.

I would welcome your comments or ideas on what to include in future editions.



Councillor Christopher Malpas
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Around the Scrutiny Panels

Three Scrutiny Panels are currently undertaking high profile, in-depth Reviews: -

- **Northamptonshire Alcohol Strategy**
to review the local delivery of the Northamptonshire Alcohol Strategy in Northampton
- **Commissioning Framework for the Voluntary and Community Sector**
To investigate the development of a commissioning Framework for the Voluntary and Community Sector
- **Absence Management**
 - To evaluate the impact that staff absence has upon service delivery
 - To review the effectiveness of the Council's Health and Well Being Policies in reducing sickness absence
 - To ensure absence management systems are robust and applied consistently in all departments

All three Scrutiny Panels are at the evidence gathering stage, which includes desktop research, expert witness evidence, internal information, examples of best practice external to Northampton. The Scrutiny Panels will continue to report progress to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at regular intervals.

As a reminder, all Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panel meetings are held in public and anyone is welcome to attend to listen to the proceedings or address the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or a Scrutiny Panel on a specific agenda item(s) in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Public Speaking Protocol.



Calling All Non-Executives to Scrutiny Development Session -



'Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder'

Last year Scrutiny Councillors were very keen for a development session to be run on the Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder.

This important aspect of Scrutiny training has been included within the Overview and Scrutiny Four Year Rolling Training Programme and will take place at the Guildhall on **Thursday 9th December 2010** from 6pm to 8pm. A light tea will be served at 5.30pm.

Ed Hammonds, Research and Information Manager, Centre for Public Scrutiny, will be facilitating this important session.

For more information *and* to book your place please email or speak to

Rosemary Plowright,
Senior Training Officer,

@ rplowright@northampton.gov.uk

☎ 01604 837252

or

Tracy Tiff,
Scrutiny Officer.

@ ttiff@northampton.gov.uk

☎ 01604 837408

Overview and Scrutiny 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

- 2010**
- 15 November
 - 20 December

- 2011**
- 24 January
 - 3 February
 - 28 March
 - 6 June

Scrutiny Panel H (Northants Alcohol Strategy)

- 2010**
- 4 October
 - 29 November

- 2011**
- 7 February
 - 20 June

Scrutiny Panel R&P (Absence Management)

- 2010**
- 20 October
 - 8 December

- 2011**
- 16 February
 - 6 July

Scrutiny Panel E (Commissioning Framework for the Voluntary and Community Sector)

- 2010**
- 4 November
 - 16 December

- 2011**
- 3 March
 - 21 July

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

