



Introduction

The August 2015 edition of the Overview and Scrutiny newsletter is the twenty second production. 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 was recently re-appointed Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and I am very keen to promote the good work that Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton has undertaken and will continue to carry out over the next year and future years.

We asked the citizens of Northampton to suggest topics for Scrutiny Reviews. We were really pleased that over fifty suggestions were put forward which were considered at the annual Work Shop event on 17 June 2015. 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 Jamie Lane
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny
Committee



How are Scrutiny Reviews carried out?

Scrutiny 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 a Scrutiny Panel for the life of the Review. For the Scrutiny reviews this year, the Scrutiny Panels chose not to appoint co-optees, however, each Panel has an extensive expert advisor list (individuals who provide information to inform the evidence base of the Scrutiny 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.





Recently completed Reviews

Overview and Scrutiny completed three comprehensive reviews in 2014/2015:

- Interpersonal Violence (centring on domestic abuse)
- Poverty in the Town
- Keep Northampton Tidy

The O&S Committee also set up two Working Groups that undertook short, sharp reviews:

- Parking, with a particular focus on match day parking
- Tree Maintenance Issues

Current Reviews

The Overview and Scrutiny work Programme for 2015/2016 was recently approved. At its inaugural meeting on 6 July 2015, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee set up three in-depth Scrutiny Reviews. Scrutiny Panels will undertake these Reviews, reporting back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- Impact of Anti Social Behaviour on the Town
- Health Check of the Local Economy
- Effectiveness of the Enforcement of Licensing Policy in respect of Taxis and Private Hire

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 29 July 2015, approved the scopes (Terms of Reference) for these comprehensive reviews.

Review work of 2013/2014 has received Cabinet's response. Almost all of the recommendations were accepted, which highlights that Overview and Scrutiny is continuing to make significant influence of Council policy, both in terms of holding the Cabinet to account and contributing to policy development, and the well-being of the citizens of Northampton.



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

2015

- 28 September
- 25 November

2016

- 11 January
- 11 April
- 13 June

Scrutiny Panel 2 –

Impact of Anti Social Behaviour on the Town

2015

- 10 September
- 8 October
- 10 December

2016

- 28 January
- 17 March

Scrutiny Panel 1 –

Healthcheck of the Local Economy

2015

- 17 September
- 15 October
- 3 December

2016

- 21 January
- 10 March

Scrutiny Panel 3 –

Effectiveness of the Enforcement of Licensing Policy in respect of Taxis and Private Hire

2015

- 24 September
- 22 October
- 26 November

2016

- 7 January
- 3 March

To find out more



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



Email: 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

