

**scrumptious** ('skrʌmpjʊəs) *adj.* *Inf.* very pleasing; delicious — 'scrumptiously *adv.*

**scrumpy** ('skrʌmpɪ) *n.* a rough dry cider, brewed esp. in the West Country of England.

**scrunch** (skrʌntʃ) *vb.* **1.** to crumple or crunch or to be crumpled or crunched. — *n.* **2.** the act or sound of scrunching.

**scruple** ('skrʊ:pəl) *n.* **1.** a doubt or hesitation as to what is morally right in a certain situation. **2.** *Arch.* a very small amount. **3.** a unit of weight equal to 20 grains (1.296 grams). — *vb.* **4.** (*obs.* when *tr.*) to have doubts (about), esp. from a moral compunction.

**scrupulous** ('skrʊ:pjʊləs) *adj.* **1.** characterized by careful observation of what is morally right. **2.** very careful or precise. — 'scrupulously *adv.* — 'scrupulousness *n.*

**scrutinise** or **-nize** ('skrʊ:tɪnaɪz) *vb.* (*tr.*) to examine carefully or in minute detail. — 'scruti.niser or -nizer *n.*

**scrutiny** ('skrʊ:tɪni) *n.* **1.** close or minute examination. **2.** a searching look. **3.** official examination of votes [from Latin *scrūtīnium* and *scrūtārī* to search even to the rags, from *scrūta*, rags, trash.]

**scuba** ('skju:bə) *n.* an apparatus used in scindiving, consisting of a cylinder or cylinders containing compressed air attached to a breathing apparatus.

**scud** (skʌd) *vb.* **scudding, scudded.** (*intr.*) **1.** (esp. of clouds) to move along swiftly and smoothly. **2.** *Naut.* to run before a gale. — *n.* **3.** the act of scudding. **4. a.** a formation of low ragged clouds driven by a strong wind beneath rain-bearing clouds. **b.** a sudden shower or gust of wind.

**scuff** (skʌf) *vb.* **1.** to drag (the feet) while walking. **2.** to scratch (a surface) or (of a surface) to become scratched. **3.** (*tr.*) *U.S.* to poke at (something) with the foot. — *n.* **4.** the act or sound of scuffing. **5.** a rubbed place caused by scuffing. **6.** a backless slipper.

**scuffle** ('skʌfl) *vb.* (*intr.*) **1.** to fight in a disorderly manner. **2.** to move by shuffling. — *n.* **3.** a disorderly struggle; the sound made by scuffling.

**scull** (skʌl) *n.* **1.** a single oar moved from the stern of a boat to propel it. **2.** one of a pair of single handed oars, both of which are pulled by the same person in a racing shell propelled by a single oar. **3.** a pair of oars. **4.** an act, instance, period, or distance. **5.** to propel (a boat) with a scull. — 'sculler *n.*

**scullery** (skʌləri) *n., pl. -leries.* *Chiefly Brit.* a small part of a kitchen where kitchen utensils are kept

**scoundrel** ('skaʊndrəl) *n.* **1.** a mean or despicable person employed to work in a kitchen. **2.** a scoundrel.

**sculpt** ('skʌlp) *vb.* **1.** variant of **sculpture**. **2.** to carve. — 'sculpture *n.* — also: **sculp.**

**sculptress** ('skʌlpɪtrəs) *n.* a woman who sculpts. (*fem.*) **sculptress** *n.* a woman who sculpts.

**sculpture** ('skʌljʊə) *n.* **1.** the art of making a three-dimensional work of art by carving wood, stone, metal, etc. **2.** works of art made by carving or modelling. **3.** a work of art made by carving or modelling. **4.** a representation of a person or thing in a three-dimensional form.

by natural processes. — *vb.* (*mainly tr.*) **4.** (*also intr.*) to carve, cast, or fashion (stone, bronze etc) three-dimensionally. **5.** to portray (a person, etc.) by means of sculpture. **6.** to form in the manner of sculpture. **7.** to decorate with sculpture. — 'sculptural *adj.*

**scumble** ('skʌmbəl) *vb.* **1.** (in painting and drawing) to soften or blend (an outline or colour) with an upper coat of opaque colour, applied very thinly. **2.** to produce an effect of broken colour on doors, panelling, etc. by exposing coats of paint below the top coat. — *n.* **3.** the upper layer of colour applied in this way.

**scunner** ('skʌnə) *Dialect, chiefly Scot.* — *vb.* **1.** (*intr.*) to feel aversion. **2.** (*tr.*) to produce a feeling of aversion in. — *n.* **3.** a strong aversion (often in **take a scunner**). **4.** an object of dislike.

**scupper**<sup>1</sup> ('skʌpə) *n.* *Naut.* a drain or spout allowing water on the deck of a vessel to flow overboard.

**scupper**<sup>2</sup> ('skʌpə) *vb.* (*tr.*) *Brit. sl.* to overwhelm, ruin, or disable.

**scurry** ('skʌrɪ) *vb.* **-rying, -ried.** **1.** to move about hurriedly. **2.** (*intr.*) to whirl about. *n., pl. -ries.* **3.** the act or sound of scurrying. **4.** a brisk light whirling movement, as of snow.

**scut** (skʌt) *n.* a small animal, esp. one of animals such as the deer or rabbit.

**scuttle**<sup>1</sup> ('skʌtl) *vb.* **1.** to move quickly. **2.** *Dialect chiefly Brit.* to run or move quickly. **3.** to run or move quickly. **4.** to run or move quickly. **5.** to run or move quickly. **6.** to run or move quickly. **7.** to run or move quickly. **8.** to run or move quickly. **9.** to run or move quickly. **10.** to run or move quickly. **11.** to run or move quickly. **12.** to run or move quickly. **13.** to run or move quickly. **14.** to run or move quickly. **15.** to run or move quickly. **16.** to run or move quickly. **17.** to run or move quickly. **18.** to run or move quickly. **19.** to run or move quickly. **20.** to run or move quickly. **21.** to run or move quickly. **22.** to run or move quickly. **23.** to run or move quickly. **24.** to run or move quickly. **25.** to run or move quickly. **26.** to run or move quickly. **27.** to run or move quickly. **28.** to run or move quickly. **29.** to run or move quickly. **30.** to run or move quickly. **31.** to run or move quickly. **32.** to run or move quickly. **33.** to run or move quickly. **34.** to run or move quickly. **35.** to run or move quickly. **36.** to run or move quickly. **37.** to run or move quickly. **38.** to run or move quickly. **39.** to run or move quickly. **40.** to run or move quickly. **41.** to run or move quickly. **42.** to run or move quickly. **43.** to run or move quickly. **44.** to run or move quickly. **45.** to run or move quickly. **46.** to run or move quickly. **47.** to run or move quickly. **48.** to run or move quickly. **49.** to run or move quickly. **50.** to run or move quickly. **51.** to run or move quickly. **52.** to run or move quickly. **53.** to run or move quickly. **54.** to run or move quickly. **55.** to run or move quickly. **56.** to run or move quickly. **57.** to run or move quickly. **58.** to run or move quickly. **59.** to run or move quickly. **60.** to run or move quickly. **61.** to run or move quickly. **62.** to run or move quickly. **63.** to run or move quickly. **64.** to run or move quickly. **65.** to run or move quickly. **66.** to run or move quickly. **67.** to run or move quickly. **68.** to run or move quickly. **69.** to run or move quickly. **70.** to run or move quickly. **71.** to run or move quickly. **72.** to run or move quickly. **73.** to run or move quickly. **74.** to run or move quickly. **75.** to run or move quickly. **76.** to run or move quickly. **77.** to run or move quickly. **78.** to run or move quickly. **79.** to run or move quickly. **80.** to run or move quickly. **81.** to run or move quickly. **82.** to run or move quickly. **83.** to run or move quickly. **84.** to run or move quickly. **85.** to run or move quickly. **86.** to run or move quickly. **87.** to run or move quickly. **88.** to run or move quickly. **89.** to run or move quickly. **90.** to run or move quickly. **91.** to run or move quickly. **92.** to run or move quickly. **93.** to run or move quickly. **94.** to run or move quickly. **95.** to run or move quickly. **96.** to run or move quickly. **97.** to run or move quickly. **98.** to run or move quickly. **99.** to run or move quickly. **100.** to run or move quickly.

# Scrutiny in Richmond upon Thames

## 3rd Annual Report

2004-2005



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# Introduction

*by Chairman of O&S Co-ordinating Group*



**Councillor  
Lance  
Quantrill**

Our Scrutiny duty is to challenge the Council's decision-makers to prudently invest the £183 million of annual spending which delivers services and standards for those whom we serve. We also take that challenge to other external organisations serving our Borough's residents, visitors and businesses.

Concentrating on the issues that really matter has been our top priority. We carefully considered over 60 suggestions for Scrutiny Task Groups last year and commenced with a topic that residents indicated was their greatest concern – waste disposal.

Improvements in efficiency emerged from last summer's comprehensive consultation. External experts have advanced the specialised knowledge of Co-opted and elected Members of each Committee allowing them to understand fully the detail of the issues being studied. Investment in general training has also developed chairing skills to enable our Chairmen to become more effective.

Scrutineers have also sought imaginative ways to engage and draw comment from the community; going "on the road" to listen to those who need the Council's services, enthusiastically promoting Scrutiny activities, searching for expert witnesses.

Effective scrutiny is not an easy task, but it is a rewarding one. My thanks go to all those involved who have invested their time to bring change about.

**Councillor Lance Quantrill**

Chairman, Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group • *September 2005*

# Comment

*from the Chief Executive*

Scrutiny is an essential part of the corporate governance arrangements of our authority. The scrutiny committees are an opportunity to examine policies in depth, explore all sides of the arguments and make sure that our residents and service users can publicly hold the decision-makers to account. Democracy lives from active participation and I welcome the fact that Scrutiny has made it one of their targets to increase public attendance and publicity for topics they are examining. We live in times when democracy is often taken for granted and public involvement is falling. Scrutiny is well positioned to tackle this by inviting residents to get involved in specific topics, with publicity aimed at a targeted audience.

I am pleased that the changes Scrutiny members agreed on last year are now bearing fruit. It was a useful step for each committee to focus on key priority areas. They have taken up the challenge to look at some of the major areas of Council business and of concern to our residents like anti-social behaviour, environment enforcement, the changes to services for children, secondary school performance and day services for older people. I look forward to seeing the results of this work over the coming months.

**Gillian Norton**

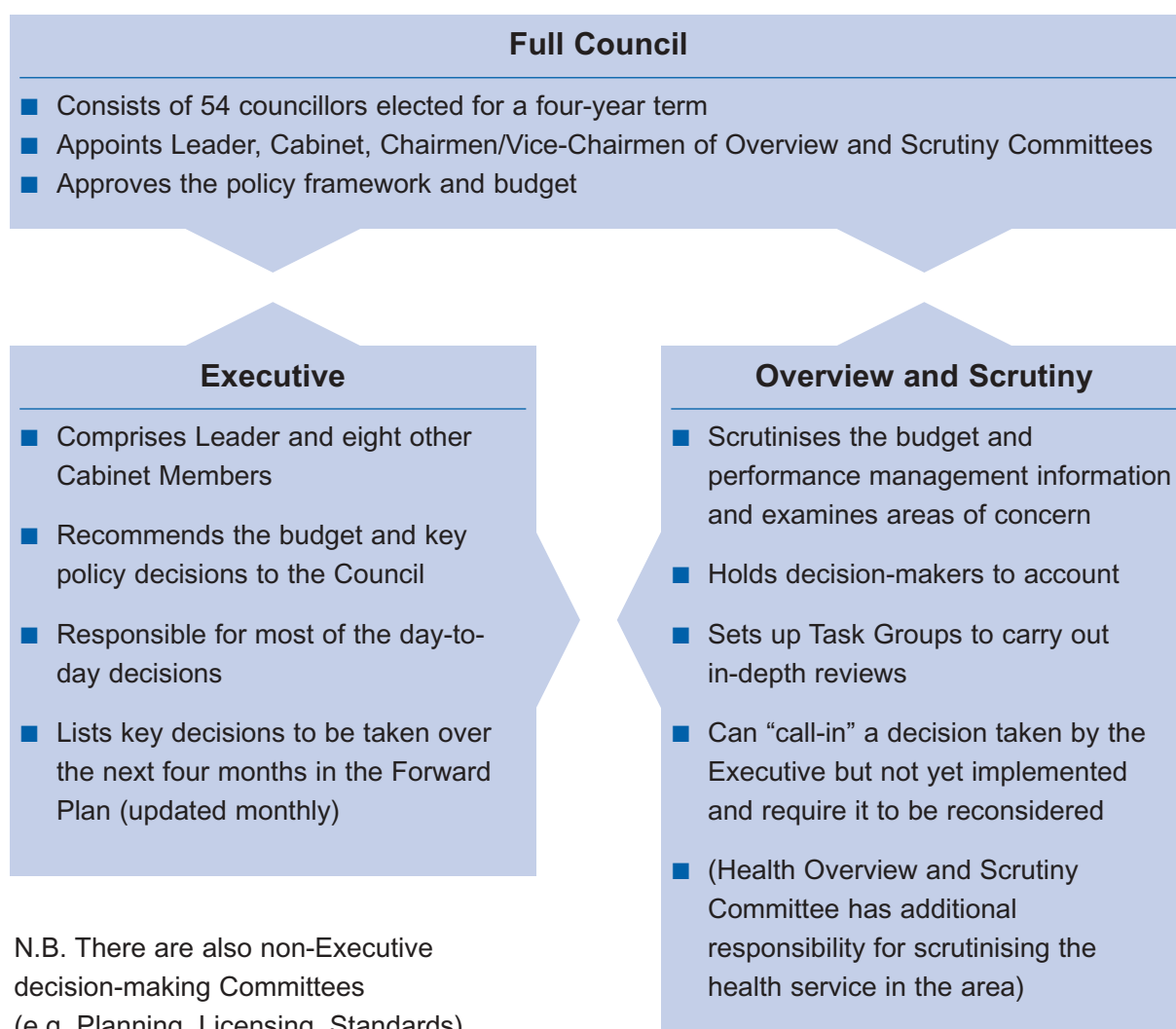
Chief Executive, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames



*Gillian Norton*

# Holding decision-makers to account in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

The most common definition of Overview and Scrutiny is that of the decision-maker's 'critical friend'. There are two parts to this. The first is the 'Overview' part: shaping of future policy in conjunction with the Executive. The second is the 'Scrutiny' part: holding decision-makers to account for decisions already taken. Although Overview and Scrutiny Committees can and do invite external bodies to meetings to discuss issues of concerns for residents (e.g. Thames Water over the Mogden Lane sewage plant), the focus is largely on Council business. It is one of the three distinct but interconnected parts of the political structure in the Authority. The different roles and responsibilities are shown in the flowchart below. (A more detailed breakdown of Committee structures can be found in Appendix A on p.18.)



# Main Overview and Scrutiny Committees

There are five main Overview and Scrutiny Committees covering all aspects of the Council's business: Education and Culture, Environment, Health, Social Care and Housing and Strategy and Resources. There is also the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group which acts as a forum for the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of these Committees to look at the way scrutiny functions. It does not conduct scrutiny itself.

## **Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Co-ordinating Group**

Since the last annual report the Group has worked at introducing the necessary changes to address the problems identified during the previous municipal year. Some of these have been about small changes, such as changing the seating and layout at Committee meetings, others have been more substantial such as making sure that all the Committees agreed on key priority topics for the year, setting up a new joint committee to scrutinise the changes to children's services or making a more concerted effort to publicise the work that the Committees carry out, particularly with regard to hard-to-reach groups.

## **Education and Culture**

Over the last 12 months the Committee received reports on a number of issues:

- Audit Commission Report on Educational Achievements of Children Looked After
- Audit Commission Report on Special Educational Needs
- SEN – Policy Update, Consultative Arrangements, Tribunal Appeals and Transport
- Implementation of the Children Act
- Best Value Review of Youth Services
- Regular consideration of Ofsted School Inspection Reports
- Regular reports on school admission arrangements, attendance, exclusions, examination results and national curriculum assessments
- Monitoring of Committee's Task Group report on school exclusions

## **Environment**

The Environment Committee has concentrated on core issues of concern to Borough residents. The Committee requested the attendance of representatives from Thames Water to answer questions about the on-going odour problems at the Mogden sewage treatment

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works. It also held a meeting at which the proposals for night-flights at Heathrow were examined. Parking and planning issues have figured high on the Committee's work programme. There have been special meetings to consider the Borough Unitary Development Plan – the main planning reference document for the area. The Committee is also looking in depth at the new Local Development Framework. Over the year it has continued to monitor progress on recommendations it has made to the Executive on Vulnerable Road Users and Climate Change.

### **Social Care and Housing**

The Committee made services for older people a key focus for its work from September last year. Members of the Committee conducted a series of visits to day centres to look at service delivery. As a trial project to improve public participation, one of the regular meetings was held outside York House at the Barnes Green Social Centre. Over the year the Committee considered several reports into services for older people, for people with learning disabilities, the recruitment and retention of social workers and occupational therapists, and the educational achievement of looked after children.

### **Strategy and Resources**

A large part of the workload of this Committee was devoted to scrutiny of the budget both during the setting of the annual budget as well as ongoing work to monitor budget and performance of the authority over the course of the year. Issues to which the Committee has given particular attention are absence management and the ICT strategy.

# Health Scrutiny

The key work areas for the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee over the last year have been the review into Hospital Acquired Infection at West Middlesex University Hospital (together with London Borough of Hounslow) and important changes to local health services. These have ranged from changes to local pregnancy termination services to the impact of new Pharmacy contracts.

The Committee is currently considering significant changes in both regional and local mental health services. A Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee covering 5 boroughs has been established to consider the proposed changes to a range of specialist mental health services provided by South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust whilst locally the Committee is considering proposals to close local mental health day hospitals.

This is an important and growing aspect of the Committee's work and it is important that the Members have a broad understanding of both national and local health issues. A number of presentations and discussions have taken place including presentations from both local acute hospital trusts on their development plans, presentations on aspects of public health, including childhood obesity, healthy schools and schools meals. The Committee has also been actively involved in the development of the PCT's Local Delivery Plan and, from this year onwards, will be required to comment on local NHS Trusts' self assessment declarations as part of the process of awarding star ratings.

Members of the Committee have still found time to be involved with a number of reviews. The impact of the delayed discharge review has been monitored throughout the year; a discretionary joint committee was formed with the London Borough of Hounslow to consider what could be done to reduce the level of hospital acquired infection in West Middlesex Hospital; and Members also joined with other overview and scrutiny committees to look at Continuing Care arrangements and Sexual Health Guidance for the Youth Service.

At the time of writing this report the Committee is anticipating a busy time over the coming months with major consultation exercises on the Government's proposed joint white paper on Adult Services and NHS Services Outside of Hospital. The Committee will also be involved in local consultation on any plans to change the local Primary Care Trust services which may be put forward to advance the Patient-Led NHS proposals.



The last year has seen the Committee's scrutiny activity develop and its partnerships strengthen with the Primary Care Trust and the Public and Patient Involvement Forum. Working protocols have been developed and agreed which clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of each agency and they have contributed to more effective partnership working. These protocols will be reviewed in 18 months time.

The Committee Chairman, Cllr Nicola Urquhart says:

"Our scrutiny of the changes to local mental health day services for adults seems to have really resonated with the public and users. There has been a great deal of interest in our work and attendance at all the public meetings has been very good. It has also been successful and as a result of our scrutiny the Trust has come back with a proposal which takes a more holistic approach and takes greater account of the knock-on effect these significant changes might have."



*Cllr Nicola Urquhart*

"Our report on MRSA stressed the need for improved cleanliness at West Mid and, as a result, action has been taken by the hospital authorities to make the war on MRSA and other hospital acquired infections a key priority."

# Scrutiny of Children's Services

As a result of the Children Act 2004, Children's Services in the Borough (and all other local authorities) are being restructured. This is part of the Government's response to the findings of the Climbié report. A Children's Trust will be set up in Richmond upon Thames which will bring together under one departmental roof all sections of the Council which currently provide services for children i.e. education and social services, along with the NHS children's services in the area. The Trust will officially be in place as of April 2006.

This is a major shake-up of the way services for children will be provided. Members on the relevant Scrutiny Committees (Education & Culture, Health and Social Care & Housing) decided to set up a cross-cutting, joint committee to scrutinise the developments and work with the decision-makers to ensure that the needs of all the children in the Borough are met, that the transition phase is as smooth as possible and that the best of the current services for children is maintained in the new service.

The Committee Members took part in a training seminar and subsequently held their first meeting at the end of July. It is a very large area to scrutinise and the Committee found useful the Government's model for breaking it down into component parts. It is using the model to focus its work and concentrate on the topics in the outer rings of the model. It is likely that there will be a reconfiguration of the standing Overview and Scrutiny Committees after May 2006 and that there will be a new Committee for Children's Services. The first steps will be to examine the proposed guiding aims of the Children's Trust as well as the planned structure.



# Scrutiny Task Groups

Scrutiny Task Groups are set up to examine issues in depth and spend more time on them than is otherwise possible at regular Committee meetings. As part of their work they often go on fact-finding visits, co-opt external experts to advise and assist them and produce at the end of the evidence-gathering exercise a final report with their findings and recommendations.

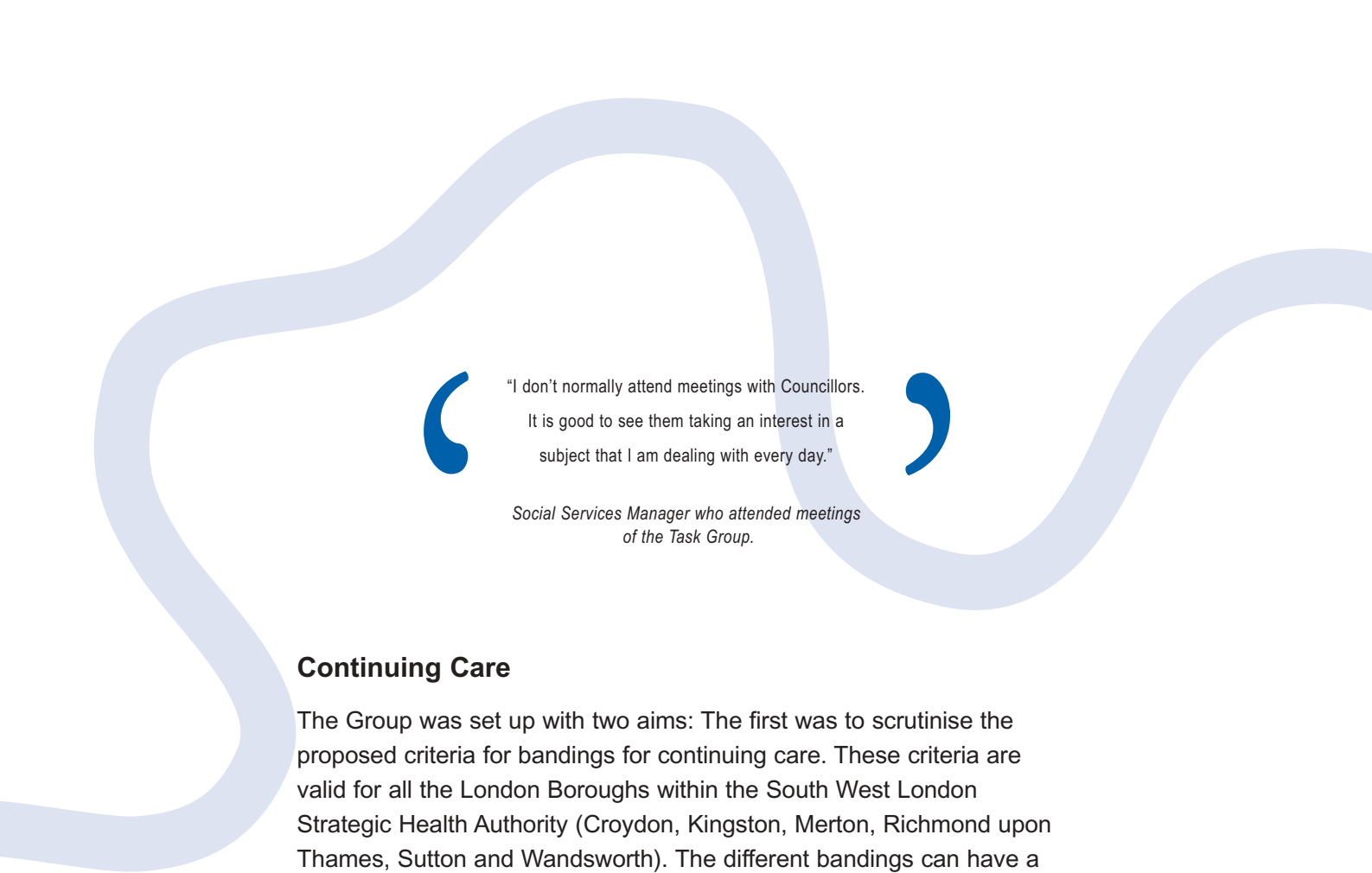
Since September 2004, five Scrutiny Task Groups or Reviews have issued their final report:

- Continuing Care
- Fulwell Golf Course/Squires Garden Centre
- Spending Developer Contributions
- Hospital Acquired Infection at West Middlesex University Hospital (jointly with scrutiny members from LB Hounslow)
- Waste Disposal (due to report in October)

The two most intensive ones set up in the Borough this year were on Continuing Care and Waste Disposal.

## **Waste Disposal**

Waste disposal came top of Scrutiny's internet poll of potential topics for members to investigate which was conducted in September 2004. The Task Group had a remit to scrutinise the emerging West London waste management strategy that was being drawn up, as well as to study the options for increasing recycling rates and reducing the amounts of waste from the Borough entering the waste stream. Currently residents produce enough waste to fill Twickenham stadium 50 metres deep. The pressing environmental need to reduce the use of landfill sites as well as the potential financial costs to the taxpayers if targets are not met were at the forefront of Task Group members' minds. The Group made it a priority to maximise public involvement in its work and in the West London strategy drafting process. It was very gratifying that so many people attended the public meetings and developed real understanding of the problems and issues to do with waste. The Task Group were pleased that many of its comments on the draft strategy were included for the final version. It was felt by those involved - Councillors, co-opted members, Borough officers, residents, West London waste consultants – to have been a very worthwhile piece of work. (Please also see the interview with Borough waste officers on p.12)

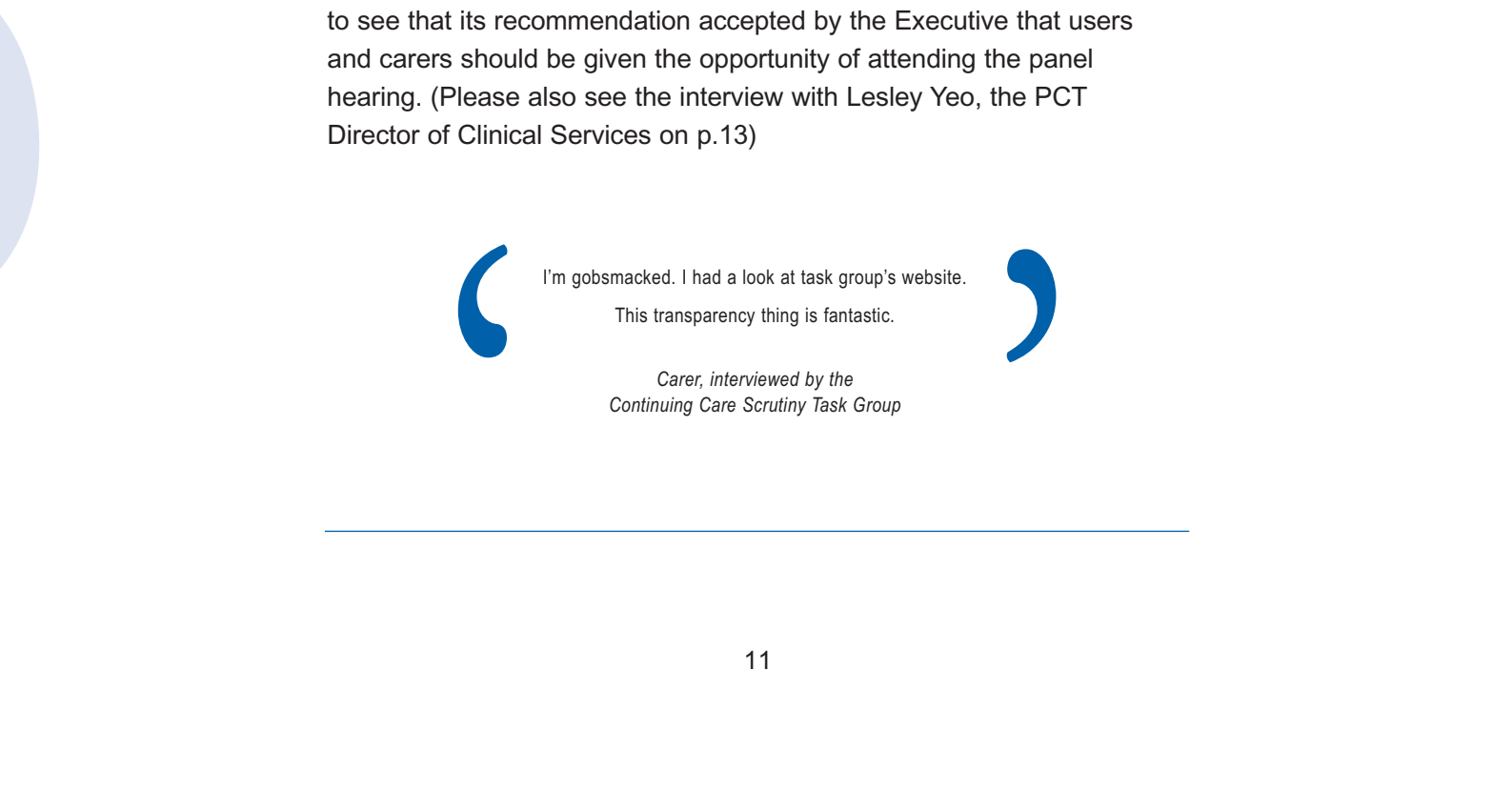


"I don't normally attend meetings with Councillors.  
It is good to see them taking an interest in a  
subject that I am dealing with every day."

*Social Services Manager who attended meetings  
of the Task Group.*

## **Continuing Care**

The Group was set up with two aims: The first was to scrutinise the proposed criteria for bandings for continuing care. These criteria are valid for all the London Boroughs within the South West London Strategic Health Authority (Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Richmond upon Thames, Sutton and Wandsworth). The different bandings can have a significant impact on users and carers and Scrutiny members were looking at this issue as they wanted to ensure that the whole system was led by the guiding principles of fairness, transparency, consistency, robustness and compassion. The Group was pleased that there was good participation from carers and representatives from the voluntary sector. It was partly thanks to this good involvement from all stakeholders that the Group was able to get some significant changes made to the continuing care criteria document. In addition to the work the Group did on the criteria, it also looked at the functioning of the continuing care assessment panels in the Borough. It was very pleased to see that its recommendation accepted by the Executive that users and carers should be given the opportunity of attending the panel hearing. (Please also see the interview with Lesley Yeo, the PCT Director of Clinical Services on p.13)



I'm gobsmacked. I had a look at task group's website.  
This transparency thing is fantastic.

*Carer, interviewed by the  
Continuing Care Scrutiny Task Group*

# What those involved with our work say



*Sue Duckworth,  
Head of Street Scene*



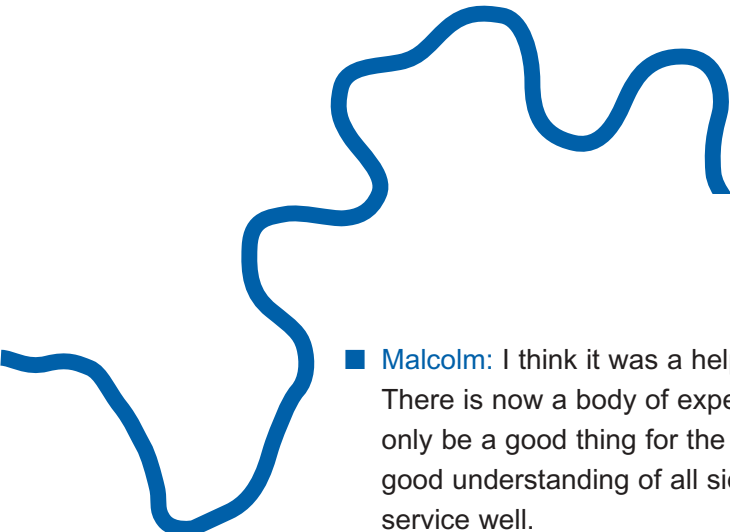
*Malcolm Sharp,  
retiring Head of Waste  
Management and Enforcement*

You have both worked very closely with the Waste Disposal Scrutiny Task Group over the last nine months. How do you feel it has worked?

- **Sue:** I was very pleasantly surprised that it was a genuine two-way process and learning experience for all those concerned: councillors, officers, consultants and members of the public.
- **Malcolm:** I was pleased that Members decided to look at this issue. It is not always easy to get Councillors to take an interest in the perhaps unglamorous topic of waste management.
- **Sue:** It was very gratifying that the time officers put in was rewarded and our technical and professional views were listened to. You could feel the questions getting better with each meeting. This was especially true of the public meetings. It is a complex and emotive topic, but the process was able to take members and the public along with them.
- **Malcolm:** I would just add that it was good to be able to take more of a back seat as an officer at public meetings and let the Councillors and the Task Group take the lead. It meant we could answer questions and put across our professional views with slightly more freedom than otherwise.

So the process has helped you and not just meant more work:

- **Sue:** Yes, and having Councillors from both parties take a broadly common view on this issue will make it easier for the Borough to move forward. As one of the Councillors said, they thought there might be a solution which would satisfy most sides. Instead, the Group has, I believe, taken a long, in-depth look at all the options and seen that everything has a drawback of some kind.

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- **Malcolm:** I think it was a help to us now and will be in the future. There is now a body of experience to draw on at a later date. It can only be a good thing for the Council to have Members who have a good understanding of all sides of the argument and who know the service well.
  - **Sue:** It was also useful to be able to go through policies very systematically, almost line by line. By having those extra eyes look at an important policy document, we were able to iron out some of the anomalies while still in draft.

What are the differences to the old committee system from your perspective?

- **Malcolm:** I think the Scrutiny process, and particularly the Task Groups, means that a topic can be considered in greater depth and with a more cross-party approach than would have been possible under the old system. There was also probably greater public involvement than with the old committees. It is difficult for me to say whether Scrutiny is generally better or worse, but it has certainly proved a very effective instrument for looking at waste management.



*Lesley Yeo  
Director of Clinical  
Services, Richmond and  
Twickenham Primary  
Care Trust (PCT)*

Lesley, you were the main PCT representative on the Continuing Care Task Group. Was it a worthwhile exercise from your point of view?

- It was. I was very pleased to be involved, though I admit that initially I struggled to see how Scrutiny could add value.

What were your concerns?

- I felt that officers and experts had already been working on this issue for many months and was not sure that Members would have much to add at that stage. As it turned out, there were valuable changes that were made as a direct result of the Group's work.

Are there any examples you wish to highlight?

- Yes, changes were made to criteria for palliative care in the final agreement, the role and involvement of the voluntary sector, carers, users and advocates were greatly strengthened, and Continuing Care Assessment Panels in the Borough now give users and carers the chance to attend if they so wish. These are all things that would not have happened without the Task Group.

Are there any particular learning points that you have taken from this piece of work?

- I've learnt that Scrutiny can be a useful conduit to get messages across. Partners sometimes do not want to push certain points with each other but Scrutiny provided a forum where everyone could put their views. Scrutiny members' independence meant that they, after seeing the merit of an argument, were able to push much harder for certain issues than we could have done.

So Scrutiny can be a useful policy lever.

- Yes, I think it can be very successful, though it does require an investment of time in order to build relationships with Members and then to put your case to them. All the partners put a lot of work into this and almost all the recommendations proposed in the final report were ones that the partners could agree to.

The Continuing Care Scrutiny Task Group wanted as much involvement of carers and carer representatives as possible. The views of one couple, Mr and Mrs Williams, who got involved in the work of Task Group:

I and my husband have gone through the difficult process of arranging care for my mother. It has been very enlightening and encouraging to sit here and see the members of the Task Group taking this issue so seriously. As my mother's condition deteriorated two years ago we were concerned about her level of care. She was given an assessment. However, we were refused access to the panel meeting. I wasn't happy with the situation. I wanted to be there when the professionals were discussing my mother's future. I needed to understand how they were making their decisions. I think it's great that, thanks to the Task Group, carers will now be given the chance to attend.



*Mr and Mrs Williams*

# Scrutiny priorities for 2005/6

This municipal year each of the four main Overview and Scrutiny Committees (excluding Health which has a separate work programme and dedicated officer support) agreed on three priority topic areas.

These were:

## **Education and Culture**

Changes to children's services  
Secondary school performance  
Strategy for 14-19 year olds

## **Environment**

Traffic speeds  
Building and planning enforcement  
Rail commuter experience

## **Social Care and Housing**

Changes to children's services  
Day services for older people needing intermediate care  
Day services for people with learning disabilities

## **Strategy and Resources**

Anti-social behaviour  
Council tax revaluation  
ICT strategy

## **Local democracy week**

17– 23 October 2005

In October Scrutiny Councillors will be holding a meeting with young people as part of Local Democracy Week in order to discuss anti-social behaviour and transport issues.





# Key Dates

<b>Date</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>22 November 05</b>	<b>Health</b>	<p><b>Focus on mental health services.</b></p> <p>The provision of mental health services could change under plans of the regional mental health trust. Councillors want to ensure that a good service provision is still maintained for users.</p>
<b>23 November 05</b>	<b>Strategy &amp; Resources</b>	<p><b>Focus on Anti-social behaviour.</b></p> <p>Given the effect of anti-social behaviour, as well as the potential impact of the new licensing regime and the High Court ruling in the summer on Dispersal Areas, Councillors want to take stock of this issue.</p>
<b>28 November 05</b>	<b>Environment</b>	<p><b>Focus on Enforcement.</b></p> <p>The Environment Committee has given high priority to building and planning enforcement in their work programme. Tonight's meeting will focus on a new enforcement project in the Borough.</p>
<b>1 December 05</b>	<b>Education &amp; Culture</b>	<p><b>Focus on performance of Borough's Secondary Schools.</b></p> <p>The Committee wish to explore in more depth some of the reasons for the below average performance in some areas in the Borough's Secondary Schools.</p>
<b>8 March 06</b>	<b>Social Care &amp; Housing</b>	<p><b>Focus on Day Services for Older People needing intermediate care.</b></p> <p>The Committee will be examining the performance of new contracts for day centres in the Borough.</p>

Please note: All these meetings will be held at **7PM** (EXCEPT FOR STRATEGY & RESOURCES AT 7.30PM) IN **YORK HOUSE** and residents are welcome to attend. Dates can sometimes change and please check on the website: [www.richmond.gov.uk/council\\_committees\\_list](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/council_committees_list) or call Scrutiny (see back cover for contact details).

# Raise an issue for Scrutiny

If you would like any more information about Overview and Scrutiny or wish to raise an issue for Scrutiny to investigate, please use the contact details on the back cover.

All agendas and minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Committees as well as reports from Scrutiny Task Groups are available by following the links on this website. Hard copies of agendas are also available from public libraries and on request from the Council's scrutiny team. We are always happy to talk about any aspect of Scrutiny in Richmond upon Thames. If you have any queries, comments, topics for future scrutiny task groups, or would be interested in being a co-opted member on an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Task Group, please get in touch.

If you have an issue that you would like Scrutiny to investigate or would like more information about Scrutiny please make contact using the details on the back cover of this report. To raise an issue you can also use the forms on the website. Please visit:

[www.richmond.gov.uk/raise\\_an\\_issue\\_for\\_scrutiny](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/raise_an_issue_for_scrutiny)

If you access to the internet you can view minutes and reports of previous meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees by following the links on this page: [www.richmond.gov.uk/publicmeetings](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/publicmeetings). Hard copies are also available at public libraries and on request from the Council's Scrutiny team.

## **What Scrutiny doesn't do:**

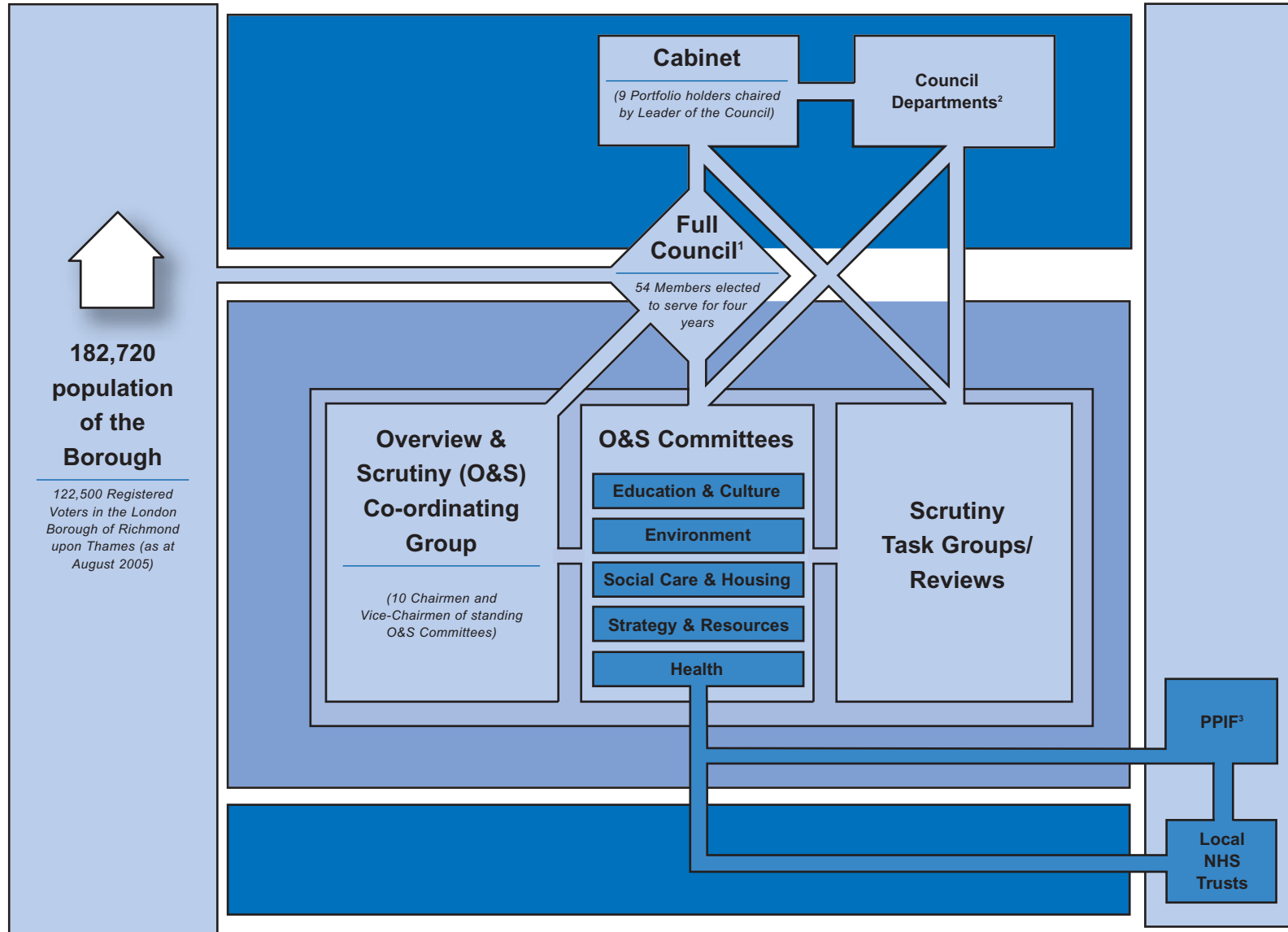
Please remember that Overview and Scrutiny does not look at individual complaints. The role of Overview and Scrutiny is to look at general policy areas and major decisions taken by the Cabinet. If you have a complaint about how your case has been treated by the Council please call the main Council switchboard on 020 8891 1411 or visit the Council's Complaints page on the website:

[www.richmond.gov.uk/complaints\\_procedure](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/complaints_procedure)

Service users

Council

External



Appendix A – Scrutiny function chart

Notes:

1. Full Council does not conduct scrutiny itself.
  2. There are 5 Departments; Education, Arts & Leisure Services; Environment; Finance and Corporate Services; Social Services and Housing; Chief Executive's.
  3. PPIF stands for the Public and Patient Involvement Forum. It is not a Council body.
- N.B. There are also several other non-executive decision-making committees e.g. Planning.

# Appendix B – Committee Chairmen and Officer Support

(As of May 2005)

## **Education and Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Chairman	Cllr Eady
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Head
No. of Councillors	8
No. of Co-opted Members	5
Committee Manager	Sarah Albert

## **Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Chairman	Cllr Butler
Vice-Chairman	Cllr McAlister
No. of Councillors	8
No. of Co-opted Members	4
Committee Manager	Ron Schrieber

## **Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Chairman	Cllr Urquhart
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Carr
No. of Councillors	8
No. of Co-opted Members	2
Committee Manager	Sarah Albert
Research Officer	Jeanette Phillips

## **Social Care & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Chairman	Cllr Jones
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Quantrill
No. of Councillors	8
No. of Co-opted Members	2
Committee Manager	Ron Schrieber

## **Strategy and Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Chairman	Cllr Porter
Vice-Chairman	Cllr Knight
No. of Councillors	9
No. of Co-opted Members	1
Committee Manager	Ron Schrieber

Support to the Overview and Scrutiny function is also provided by Mary Collins (Democratic Services Manager) and Jonathan Hill-Brown (Scrutiny Support Officer).

# Appendix C – Facts and Figures about Scrutiny in Richmond upon Thames

## No. of Members:

Of the 54 Councillors, 33 are Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees. There are 14 Co-opted Members of the public and other stakeholder organisations who sit on Committees.

## Budget spends on Scrutiny (excluding staffing costs):

2003-4	£5,000
2004-5	£6,241

## No. of call-ins:

Committee	Municipal Year 2003-4	Municipal Year 2004-5
Education and Culture	None	None
Environment	4 (of which 2 referred back to Cabinet Member for reconsideration)	1 (not referred back to Cabinet Member)
Health (set up Jan 2003)	None	None
Social Care and Housing	None	None
Strategy and Resources	2	None

## Number of meetings:

Committee	Municipal Year 2003-4	Municipal Year 2004-5
Education and Culture	6	7
Environment	10	8
Health	4	6
Social Care and Housing	8	7
Strategy and Resources	7	6

# Scrutiny in Richmond upon Thames

Democratic Services,  
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames,  
York House, Richmond Road, Twickenham TW1 3AA

Tel: 020 8891 7191

Fax: 020 8891 7701

E-mail: [scrutiny@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@richmond.gov.uk)

Website: [www.richmond.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/scrutiny)

## Albanian

Nese keni veshtersi per te kuptuar kete botim, ju lutemi ejani ne recepcionin ne adresen e shenuar me poshte ku ne mund te organizojme perkthime nepermjet telefonit.

## Urdu

اگر آپ کو اس اشاعت کو سمجھنے میں کوئی مشکل ہے تو، براہ کرم نیچے دیئے ہوئے ایڈریس کے استقبالیے پر جا کر ملینے، جہاں ہم آپ کیلئے ٹیلیفون انٹرمیڈیٹنگ سروس (ٹیلیفون پر ترجمانی کی سروس) کا انتظام کر سکتے ہیں۔

## Arabic

إذا كانت لديك صعوبة في فهم هذا المنشور، فنرجو زيارة الإستقبال في العنوان المعطى أدناه حيث بإمكاننا أن نرتب لخدمة ترجمة شفوية هاتفية.

## Gujarati

જો તમને આ પુસ્તિકાની વિગતો સમજવામાં મુશ્કેલી પડતી હોય તો, કૃપયા નીચે જણાવેલ સ્થળના રિસેપ્શન પર આવો, જ્યાં અમે ટેલિફોન પર ગુજરાતીમાં ઇન્ટરમિડિયટ સેવાની ગોઠવણ કરી આપીશું.

## Bengali

এই প্রকাশনার অর্থ বুঝতে পারায় যদি আপনার কোন সমস্যা হয়, নিচে দেওয়া ঠিকানায় রিসেপ্শন-এ চলে আসুন যেখানে আমরা আপনাকে টেলিফোনে দোভাষীর সেবা প্রদানের ব্যবস্থা করতে পারবো।

## Punjabi

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਪਰਚੇ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿੱਚ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਪੇਸ਼ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਪਤੇ ਉੱਪਰ ਰਿਸੈਪਸ਼ਨ 'ਤੇ ਆਓ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਤੇ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਇੰਟਰਪ੍ਰਿਟਰ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

## Farsi

اگر در فهمیدن این نشریه مشکلی دارید لطفاً به میز پذیرش در آدرس قید شده در زیر مراجعه نمایید تا ترتیب ترجمه تلفنی برایتان فراهم آورده شود:

**Civic Centre,**

44 York Street,

Twickenham, TW1 3BZ