

# Scrutiny in Richmond upon Thames

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Newsletter – January 2006

### What is Scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny Committees are made up of backbench councillors and co-opted members and have the following aims:

- ❑ provide “critical friend” challenge to Council decision-makers as well as external authorities and agencies;
- ❑ reflect the voice and concerns of the public and its communities;
- ❑ take the lead and own the scrutiny process on behalf of the public;
- ❑ make an impact on the delivery of public services.

You will find in this newsletter a summary of items and issues which are due to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees at their meetings in January, February and March of this year.

### Joint Children’s O&S

**20 February:** This meeting will be considering the draft Children and Young People’s Plan, the Local Safeguarding Children Board and the possible Scrutiny Structure post May 2006. The Children and Young People’s Plan will set out the future for children’s services over the next three years.

### Education and Culture O&S Committee

#### 18 January:

Items to include:

- ❑ Revenue Budget 2006/07
- ❑ Review of Charges 2006/07
- ❑ Special Educational Needs Transport
- ❑ Update on the Sex and Relationships Guidance Task Group

#### 14 March:

This meeting will focus on the Borough Strategy for 14-19 year olds, concentrating within this on partnership working.

It is expected that the **Secondary School Performance Scrutiny Task Group** will be bringing their final report to this meeting. Cllr Head, Cllr Nicholson and Esther Mirrielees have carried out four visits to schools within and outside the Borough so far. The invitation to meet with the Group has now been extended to all secondary schools in the Borough.

Other items for **14 March** to include:

- ❑ Admissions 2006
- ❑ Strategy for Sport
- ❑ Comparison of performance with London Boroughs 2004/5

### Environment O&S Committee

#### 12 January:

Items to include:

- ❑ Review of Enforcement Policies in Development and Street Scene
- ❑ Revenue Budget 2006/07
- ❑ Review of Charges 2006/07
- ❑ Policy to Support Installation of Recycling Facilities in Blocks of Flats
- ❑ UDP/LDF Annual Monitoring Report (the Unitary Development Plan is the main planning guideline document for the Borough)
- ❑ Update on executive response to Vulnerable Road Users Scrutiny Task Group

#### 1 March:

Items to include:

- ❑ Controlled Parking Zone Programme 2005/06
- ❑ Waste Strategies
- ❑ Comparison of performance with London Boroughs 2004/5



## **Social Care and Housing O&S Committee**

### **17 January:**

Items to include:

Revenue Budget 2006/07

Review of Charges 2006/07

Domiciliary Care update

Update on Response to Affordable

Housing Scrutiny Task Group Report

### **8 March:**

Items to include:

- Review of day centres for older people needing intermediate care
- Progress Report on Modernisation of Services for People with Learning Disabilities
- Comparison of performance with London Boroughs 2004/5
- Update on Response to Continuing Care Task Group Report

## **Strategy and Resources O&S Committee**

### **23 February**

The Committee held a successful meeting on 23 November 2005 with a focus on anti-social behaviour. It heard representations from the Community Safety team, the Police, the Police and Community Consultative Group as well as from the Senior Policy Officer from the Youth Justice Board about best practice regarding tackling anti-social behaviour. A report will be drawn up and brought to the meeting.

Other items to include:

- Revenue Budget Strategy and Council Tax 2006/07
- Review of Charges 2006/07
- Corporate Services and Central Items Budget 2006/7
- Capital Budget 2006/7-2008/9
- Borough Conference (planning the new Community Plan setting the Council's priorities for the next three years.)
- Comparison of performance with London Boroughs 2004/5

### **27 March**

Items to include:

- Progress Report on Equality and Diversity Work

## **Health O&S Committee**

### **1 February**

Items to include:

- Response to Strategic Health Authority Consultation
- Access to Health Services in Deprived Areas
- Terms of Reference for Local Mental Health Services Review

### **29 March**

Items to include:

- End of Year Healthcare Commission Submissions
- Progress Report on Local Mental Health Services Review
- Changes to Cancer Services at Kingston Hospital
- PCT Budget 2006/07
- Changes to Dental Contracts and Access to NHS Dentists

## **Further information**

To see the scrutiny annual report, or other information about scrutiny in the Borough, please contact us or visit the website:

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

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