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Introduction by Cllr Sue Jones and Cllr Geoffrey Samuel



Over the last four years, I have had the privilege of chairing the Co-ordination, Finance and Performance Commission, the Adult Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group.

As a scrutiny member, I aspire to empower both residents, members, co-optees and officers by encouraging everyone to attend our meetings or to get involved outside of meetings. The scrutiny function is carried out in a variety of different ways including committee meetings, single issue meetings, task groups and public workshops. As a result of the Leach Review (2008) agendas have been reduced, allowing deeper scrutiny of individual items. This approach has allowed a wide variety of topics to be scrutinised from Academies to Self Directed Support.

I have always been convinced that scrutiny is a vital part of a local authority's responsibility to its residents. Training is vital for this, and I am pleased that member development is taken very seriously within our authority as, in all cases, we have to acquire the skills to do the job.

I would like to thank everyone who has assisted us in our work over the last four years. My hope for the future is that scrutiny in Richmond upon Thames continues to improve, helping to provide effective and efficient services to all our residents.

Cllr Sue Jones

Chair of the Co-ordination, Finance and Performance Commission

The Scrutiny process has two advantages over the old committee system. First, is the ability to learn from other councils: whereas Cabinet Members rightly take their advice from our own officers, scrutiny can examine best practice elsewhere.

Second, and even more important, are co-optees. They perform two invaluable functions. The first is expertise. Outside knowledge and experience are invaluable to scrutiny members, especially when it enables them to see matters in a new light and to challenge 'expert' witnesses. There is a tendency of councillors to 'go native', this is rarely a problem with co-optees. In this respect we must understand the feelings of some potential co-optees who may be deeply concerned about some aspects of the work, but have little interest in the rest. In my view we must encourage more co-option on to task groups.

Co-optees are an indication of the will of councillors to involve and embrace members of the community in local democracy. That way lies the future.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the current co-opted members for their hard work over the past four years.

Cllr Geoffrey Samuel

Vice-Chair of the Co-ordination, Finance and Performance Commission

Health Scrutiny Update



Cllr Christine Percival, Health, Housing and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Healthcare for London

A Framework for Action (2007) led to rapid changes in the delivery of healthcare in London. Last year saw consultation

on the new models for stroke and trauma care, which are now being implemented. Four trauma networks and eight hyper-acute stroke units with associated stroke networks are being rolled out. Locally, our major trauma and hyper acute stroke unit is St George's with stroke units at Kingston and West Middlesex. Diabetes services and the creation of polyclinics were the next priority and our first polyclinic will be based around Teddington Memorial Hospital. A new open-access GP practice starts there in March, open seven days a week, evenings included.

Healthcare for South West London

South West London PCTs are working together to improve the quality of health and healthcare for local people. New ways of delivering health services are being developed in the face of a challenging economic climate. Current demands for services are unsustainable unless the process of how they are delivered undergoes radical change. More services are to be delivered in the community or as close to home as possible, whilst more specialised services should be available in centres of excellence. There are plans to

reduce attendances at A&E by developing urgent care centres. Many people do not need admission or specialist services, therefore allowing better use of A&E resources.

Borough Based Commissioning

At borough level the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the progress on the development of joint commissioning of community services by NHS Richmond and the Council. A

Joint Programme Board has been established to oversee the development of this work. The aim is to transform the health and social care system locally and provide greater opportunities to address the needs of the most disadvantaged and to address inequality. It is hoped integration will be consistent with the personalisation of services, giving people greater choice and control over their care and support.

Task Groups Update

Since the start of the calendar year a number of task groups have been busy gathering evidence and drafting reports for their "parent" Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSC).

Home-based/Self Employed Task Group

Home-based businesses are a significant proportion of the small business sector and account for an increasing proportion of business start-ups. However, they are largely invisible, not separately identified in official statistics and difficult to survey. The Council is currently working closely with partners through the Business, Skills, and Economic Development Partnership to address the recession but also to plan ahead. To these ends, an Economic Development Strategy is being prepared for the Local Strategic Partnership underpinned by a thorough Local Economic Assessment.

Road Safety in Residential Areas Task Group

Recently published road safety statistics confirm that Richmond upon Thames is ahead of Government targets for reducing casualties by more than two years. However, at the meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 24 June 2009, Members agreed that scrutiny could "add value", to work already underway, by setting up a task group to investigate not only how our roads might be made even safer, but also looking at environmental considerations of traffic calming measures, and how the Council and partners might encourage more walking and cycling.

Parental Engagement in Children's Secondary Education Task Group

The recommendations of the Parental Engagement in Children's Secondary Education Task Group were agreed by the Children's Services and Culture OSC on 28 January 2010. An "Executive Response" will be prepared for Cabinet in March.

Focus on Chris Channer, Partnership Manager

Can you explain your role?

I manage a small team of people who maintain and develop the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for Richmond upon Thames. The LSP is the umbrella organisation which sets the direction for partnership activity across the borough. The LSP has a comprehensive sub structure which requires a lot of work to maximise its effectiveness.

Why is the LSP important?

The LSP allows us to look at the borough from a wider perspective – primarily through the sharing views, information and ideas. On their own, partners will have a specific view depending on their agenda, so by bringing them

together, in one body, you broaden the view and the potential for delivery.

How can the scrutiny role assist the LSP?

Scrutiny is well established within the local authority. The addition of recent powers to incorporate key partners broadens the scope of that role. The advantage for the LSP is that it brings a different perspective, a fresh pair of eyes, to the work of the partners which may add value.

How do you see the role of scrutiny?

Bearing in mind that most partners have their own priorities, I think the way in which scrutiny relates and develops a shared agenda is crucial. I would



Chris Channer

like to see a critical friend approach, which is seen as being helpful, constructive and central to the future prosperity of the borough.

Scrutiny of Partnerships – a priority for 2010/11

At a time of tightening resources, it is clear that the Council will only achieve its priorities by working more closely in future with its key partners in health, business, community safety and the voluntary sector. Scrutiny can play a vital role in helping to shape the debate, both in terms of challenge and policy development. In addition, the legislative thrust is towards an increase in local accountability and democratic inclusion in areas such as Health Scrutiny, Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Partnerships and, more recently, Scrutiny of Local Area Agreements.

When looking at this issue from a scrutiny perspective, there are a number of factors to take into account, but two key objectives stand out:

- Building constructive relationships with partners and better understanding of the positive role of scrutiny.
- Recognition among all partners that the challenge of scrutiny can often lead to real change and improvement for everyone involved.

The Chair of the Commission, Councillor Sue Jones and the Commission's External Performance Champion, Councillor John Coombs, have met with the LSP Executive

Group to identify a number of possible areas for future joint work. The aim of this is to add value and build on the previous examples of good work done by the Alcohol Task Group and the Small Business Task Group, as well as best practice examples from other areas. It is essential that everyone involved in Partnership Scrutiny signs up to a shared understanding and agenda that has as its focus the wellbeing of all individuals, families and communities in the borough.

Committee News

Children's Services and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Cllr Suzette Nicholson

Over the last couple of months the committee has looked into a number of issues, most notable of these was

the Academies Programme. Various special meetings and consultations gave members and the public the opportunity to have their say, which resulted in the committee supporting academies at both Hampton and Whitton. The proposed academy for Shene will be considered in March/April.

The library efficiency review, which aimed to provide an improved service at a lower cost, was also reviewed and monitored as well as the SEN provision and school performance.

Environment and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This committee has looked at a wide variety of issues recently, including the Allotments Strategy. At its September meeting, the committee made a number of recommendations to Cabinet, which were subsequently adopted. Other interesting topics were the review of the successful London's Arcadia project and assessing the recommendations on the Local Development Framework, prior to consultation.



Cllr Jeremy Elloy

Co-ordination, Finance and Performance Commission



Cllr Sue Jones

The commission has looked at several key strategic and partnership issues, including Twickenham Riverside, the development of greater devolution and engagement and possible future webcasting of Council buildings. The misuse of hard drugs was an issue highlighted by the commission when looking at the information supplied by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Task group work with partners to combat some of the underlying causes of drug related crime could begin later this year. The Budget and Council Tax proposals for 2010/11 and the Efficiency Challenge business cases were also scrutinised in detail by the commission.

For more information contact:

Overview and Scrutiny Team
Democratic Services
York House
Richmond Road
Twickenham
TW1 3AA

Telephone: 020 8891 7158
Fax: 020 8891 7701

Further information is also available on our website:
www.richmond.gov.uk/scrutiny

Please contact us if you need this leaflet in Braille, large print, audio tape, or another language.

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Civic Centre,
44 York Street, Twickenham TW1 3BZ, Telephone 020 8891 1411

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

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:

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਪਰਚੇ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ 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।