



meeting **COMMUNITY SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE**

date **25 April 2005** agenda item number

Report of the Chair of the Select Committee Annual Review of Scrutiny 2004-2005

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** The attached reports detail the work of the Community Services Select Committee from January 2004 – April 2005 (Appendix 1) and from July 2002 – December 2003 (Appendix 2).

2. Background

- 2.1** An annual review of scrutiny work has many benefits including being able to list the entire gambit of topics covered, evaluate the impact of scrutiny on each, tabulate the amount of scrutiny work that has been presented to Cabinet, monitor the progress of scrutiny outcomes and assist in setting a work programme for the forthcoming year.

3 Issues

- 3.1** The attached report (appendix 1) is provided as a means to celebrate the successes of the Community Services Committee over the past 15 months and assess the outcomes and effectiveness of scrutiny. It should also assist successor committees in preparing and selecting scrutiny topics.
- 3.2** Also attached (appendix 2) is the previous review of scrutiny report from 2002-2003 compiled by the then Assistant Director, Tim Challans, which has been updated with dates of when those items listed were presented to Cabinet.
- 3.3** It is hoped that the reports, when taken in conjunction, will allow Members of the Committee to appreciate the sheer scope of the work that they have been involved with over the past 4 years of scrutiny work.
- 3.4** The work of the select committee in discharging its responsibilities to scrutinise and hold the executive to account and assisting with policy development can be considered on a number of dimensions. The committee has:
- Identified several issues which required an in-depth investigation and has established study groups to work with officers and stakeholders.
 - Received reports on new regulations, consultation documents, and government proposals which affect the services within its purview

- Received monitoring reports on our services and constructively challenged performance.
- Invited the portfolio holders to its meetings to discuss issues of concern.
- Been involved in the preparation for a variety of inspections, considered the outcomes of the inspections and monitored the implementation of improvement plans.
- Reflected the experience and views of service users.

4 Recommendation

4.1 This report is provided for the information and comment of members.

Joyce Bosnjak
Chair, Community Services Select Committee