

meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 9 December 2010

agenda item number **7b**

## Report of the Chair of the Overview Committee

### Purpose of the Report

1. This report from the Chair of the Overview Committee further updates members on the work of scrutiny and on the implementation of recommendations made in scrutiny reviews, including updates on the work of the three standing committees.

### Overview Committee

2. A small group of members from the Overview Committee are continuing to consider how well partnerships deliver improvements for local communities. They have heard from every LSP in the county and they will consider their conclusions at their next meeting.
3. A small study group of scrutiny members is continuing to look at domestic violence in the county and have visited a refuge in Mansfield and observed a Multi Agency Assessment Conference. The group is considering the help that is available for victims, the nature and prevalence of domestic violence in Nottinghamshire and the effects on individuals and families, particularly children.

### Standing Committees

#### Communities & the Environment

4. The Standing Committee is to begin a review into heritage and conservation in the county with a focus on archaeology and buildings, particularly those buildings considered to be at risk.
5. A review into road safety around schools is nearing completion. Although Notts schools have an excellent safety record – of 269 child casualties in 2009 in the county, only 11 occurred outside a school - the group will consider the effectiveness of initiatives, particularly school travel plans, in helping to improve road safety.
6. The council is to lobby Parliament, write to MPs and attempt to rally support from neighbouring authorities over powers to make utility companies pay towards resurfacing roads. The recommendation was made in the recent scrutiny review into road maintenance.

## **Education**

7. A study group has also been gathering information about school pupils opting to receive education across county boundaries - the so-called 'Lincolnshire drift' - and have visited a number of schools including Hawtonville Junior School, near Newark.
8. A small study group has also started to examine the benefits of inclusion for SEN pupils. The review will consider if the policy is in the best interests of all children, young people and staff in mainstream schools, and explore what alternative and new ways of working could be developed.

## **Health & Wellbeing**

9. The Standing Committee has begun a 'from care to independence' review to examine the transition for children when leaving care. Young people in care often leave home younger and have more abrupt transitions to adulthood than their peers and many are expected to live independently and manage their own income and household as soon as they reach legal adulthood. The review will consider the practical and emotional support that is available to assist in the transition and the co-operation that exists between local authorities providing social care.

**Councillor Joyce Bosnjak**  
**Chair of the Overview Committee**