

2009/10 Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Commissions

RECOMMENDATION

1. To receive the 2009/10 Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Commissions.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council's Constitution requires the Overview and Scrutiny Commissions to 'report annually to full Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate'.
- 2.2 The report contained in Appendix 2 is the Annual Report of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Commissions. The report summarises the work that has been carried out by the Commissions during the administrative year 2009/10.

For more information contact: Mahroof Hussain 01332 255597 e-mail mahroof.hussain@derby.gov.uk
Background papers: Appendix 1 – Implications
List of appendices: Appendix 2 - Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Commissions

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising directly from this report.

Legal

2.1 The Local Government Act 2000 requires that the Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements cover the full range of functions for which it is responsible. Delivery of the overview and scrutiny function can be undertaken by a minimum of one committee or any higher number the Council considers to be appropriate. Any committee when considering local authority education functions must, in addition to the Council members, include in the case of Derby five voting members representing faith communities and parents. To comply with the Health and Social Care Act 2001 the Council has designated the Adult Services and Health Commission to review and scrutinise local National Health Service bodies. Since 30 April 2009 there has also been a requirement, under the Police and Justice Act 2006, to designate a Crime and Disorder Committee.

2.2 The 2000 Act also requires that local authorities must have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Personnel

3. None arising directly from this report.

Equalities impact

4. Effective Overview and Scrutiny is of benefit to all Derby people.

Corporate Objectives, Values and Priorities

5. Overview and Scrutiny activities have the potential to link to all the Council's Corporate Priorities.



Derby City Council Overview and Scrutiny Commissions' Annual Report 2009/10

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Foreword

I am delighted to present this year's Annual Report on behalf of Derby City Council's Overview and Scrutiny Commissions which covers the work of the Commissions from April 2009 to the end of March 2010.

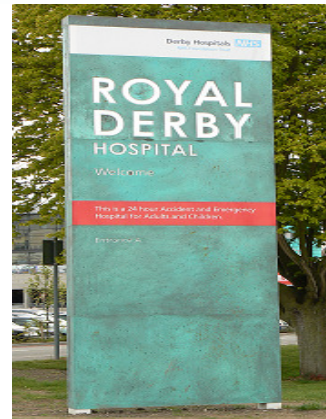
Readers will notice a change to the format of the report. With Members' agreement the volume of text has been significantly reduced.

The Overview and Scrutiny function has employed new tools to discharge its function effectively this year with the introduction of Councillor Call for Action and the statutory creation of the Crime and Disorder Committee.

The outputs that the Council's Scrutiny Commissions have achieved in the past year would not have been possible without the work of my fellow scrutiny members and the input to the process of the public and the officers who have contributed to our reviews. Therefore, as in previous years, I should like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to everyone who has in the past year contributed to the work of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Commissions.

Cllr Lisa Higginbottom
Chair of the Scrutiny Management Commission 2009/10

Adult Services and Health Commission



Responsibilities for scrutinising:

Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health and all Health Scrutiny

Issues Scrutinised this year:

- Derby Links' Annual Report
- Presentations on key Health and Social Care services (Priorities, action plans and milestones)
- Annual Work Programme
- Revenue Budget 2010/11- 2013/14
- Capital Budget 2010/11- 2013/14
- Update on heart and stroke services pre-engagement
- Services for People with Learning Disabilities
- Consultation by East Midlands Ambulance Trust on their bid to become a Foundation Trust
- Performance Monitoring
- Major trauma, stroke and heart attack presentation by NHS East Midlands on Darzi next stage review
- Neonatal Intensive Care Services
- Derby Dementia Diagnostic Tool
- Response to Handy Persons Scheme Report
- Personalisation – the next areas of development
- Future arrangements for safeguarding adults
- Care Quality Commission response to ASH Commission's comments

Report of the Commission Chair, Councillor Fareed Hussain

The Commission has carried out a lot of detailed work this year with Topic Reviews looking at:

Patient Transport Services

The Commission decided to review patient transport services following complaints from members of the Disabled People's Forum who experienced difficulties in booking the transport service. After receiving extensive evidence the Commission recommended reducing journey times, providing return journeys home and offering greater flexibility to patients when booking the service. The Commission also sought better promotion of the Health Ring and Ride Service which is funded by the Council.

Adult Services 2008/09 Budget Underspend

The Commission was concerned about the large underspend in the Adult Social Services and called upon Senior Officers to explain the reasons behind it.

NHS Derby City action to address Childhood Obesity

At the Commission's request, the NHS Derby City presented a detailed report to the Commission on the work they were undertaking to tackle childhood obesity. The Commission felt that the key issues for development were a health hub to include a service for obese children, to build on existing strong partnership working and develop the wider partnership work.



Progress in tackling infant mortality at neighbourhood level

The Commission asked the NHS Derby City to explain performance levels in tackling this important issue.

Pharmacy First

The Commission looked at the different types of services available at pharmacies including the minor ailments service which enables patients registered with a GP and who don't pay prescription charges to receive free advice and treatment on a range of conditions.

Retinopathy Services

Patients have been experiencing difficulties in accessing the retinopathy services when using the electronic booking system over the last six months. This issue was brought to the attention of Commission by the Chair after experiencing similar problems. Although this services is managed by the Derbyshire County NHS Derby City, the Commission received an explanation from NHS Derby City on the problems and actions being considered to improve the service

Throughout the year the Commission has worked closely with its partners in the NHS Trusts and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Officers for their time and efforts spent supporting the Commission with their work. In addition I would like to thank all those who have provided evidence at our meetings, the Vice Chair of the Commission Councillor Nath and indeed all Commission Members for their time, dedication and hard work.



Climate Change Commission

Responsibilities for Scrutinising:

Aspects of the Cabinet Member for Direct and Internal Services and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Environment's portfolios.

Issues Scrutinised this year:

- Schools Competition
- Discussion with Young People about Climate Change
- Scrutiny Structure
- 10:10 Carbon initiative
- Street Lighting
- Work Programme
- Longbridge Weir Hydro Plant
- Waste Treatment Plant
- Climate Change Strategy
- Carbon Reduction Commitment
- Capital and Revenue Budgets 2010/11- 2012/13
- Refuse Collection Rounds Review
- Generating Energy on Council owned Land
- Warm Zone
- Energy Monitors
- Waste Collection Services
- Environmental Considerations for Council House Refurbishment
- Street Lighting

Report of the Commission Chair, Councillor Phillip Ingall

This year, the Commission has closely monitored developments across the Council which could have a direct impact on the Council's carbon emissions. Regular reports have been brought on the Longbridge Weir proposals and the Commission held a special meeting in July to look at the Council's Climate Change Strategy – a document which sets out the Council's plans for tackling climate change over the forthcoming years.

Our topic review this year aimed to establish what the population of Derby thought about Climate Change. Over a thousand people were questioned about this important issue and their comments were used to formulate recommendations to

Council Cabinet and the Climate Change Board regarding future communication strategies.

The Commission has been home to lively debate, strong opinions and a strong motivation to keep Climate Change at the top of the political agenda. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my vice chair, Councillor Banwait for his contributions, Co-opted Members of the Commission for their dedication and commitment and other Commission Members for their work. Additionally, special thanks must be given to the officers who have attended our meetings, the support received from the Overview and Scrutiny Team and the Climate Change Unit Team who have offered their skills and knowledge to great effect.

Community Commission



Responsibilities for Scrutinising: Aspects of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Environment and the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture's portfolios.

Issues scrutinised this year:

- Empty Properties
- Parks and Open Spaces Strategy: Approval of final draft
- Performance Monitoring
- An Evaluation of Neighbourhood Working in Derby
- Housing and Council Tax Benefit
- Housing Rent Account Budget and Business Plan
- Community Centres
- Mobile library
- Markeaton Crematorium Proposed Capital Expenditure
- Derby Homes Tenancy Sustainment Service
- Public Conveniences – Evening Opening of Toilets
- Fly Tipping
- Community Legal Advice Centre, CLAC, and Derby Advice
- Housing Services
- Budget Strategy
- Housing Stock – Under Occupation
- Reform of Council Housing Finance: consultation response
- Exeter House Refurbishment
- Community Legal Advice Centre

- Housing Rents and Service Charges
- Housing Allocations – 3 Years On
- Financial Inclusion in Derby: The contribution of Midlands Community Finance
- Creation of a Tenancy Sustainment Team
- Rent Levels and Housing Benefit Subsidy
- Budget Proposals Revenue and Capital 2010/11-2012/13
- Proposed Capital Programmes for Housing, Environmental Services and Regeneration & Community 2010/11-12/13
- Review of Council Leisure Facilities
- Derby LIVE
- Annual Arts Grant
- Derby Museums
- State of the City Report

Report of the Commission Chair, Councillor Alan Grimadell

This was a very busy year for the Commission. The work programme was comprised from a mix of issues which were nominated by members in July 2009 plus key documents and decisions from the Forward Plan. Strong messages were sent to Cabinet about Exeter House refurbishment (not good value for money) and the CLAC (more funds needed to meet the recession driven demand). For a further year we have had to express concerns more than once about the lack of progress in securing the long term provision of public conveniences for residents and visitors to our City. At the time of writing (10 May 2010) the picture remains unclear.

Our largest project was 'Tackling Homelessness' The intention of this review was to provide conclusions and recommendations which could beneficially influence the development of the new Homelessness Strategy being worked on by senior housing officers. Evidence was gathered through a series of interviews about Housing Options, Advice Services, City Strategies and Supported Accommodation, NHS Derby City and also our Mayor Councillor Marshall. As well as presentations and across-the-table interviews, a large amount of supporting documentation was received. This was followed by tours of sheltered accommodation. A large number of recommendations were put forward to help shape the Homelessness strategy and both will be jointly considered at a future meeting of Council Cabinet.

This Commission was unique in considering the 2010/11 budget proposals at two meetings. This secured a much more cautious approach by Cabinet to the proposed transfer to the third sector of 5 community centres – the Commission were concerned about their viability if removed from Council management.

Budget scrutiny had also identified a £1.9m capital scheme for the Markeaton Crematorium. Although achieving mercury abatement is essential, queries were raised about the scheme's urgency, whether optional works should proceed and whether the current cremators should be replaced, despite having years of useful service left. A 4-strong Sub Group was set up to conduct an urgent review. That review was completed by the end of April and the recommendations included:

- the *paramount* project driver should be the fitting of abatement equipment and

any changes to office, visitor and funeral directors' facilities should be secondary considerations

- the Evans 300/2 cremators should be retained rather than replaced
- staff training is required to achieve the more efficient use of gas and for staff and managers to plan services and cremations across the day and week.
- the procurement process should make use of an existing Framework Agreement to save bureaucracy and time.

Chairing the Community Commission has been a new and welcome role for me. I would like to thank my Vice Chair, Councillor Paul Bayliss, for his invaluable support and to all Commission Members for their contributions.



Corporate Parenting Sub Commission

The Corporate Parenting Sub Commission is responsible for the scrutiny of services to children looked after by the Council. The Commission meets four times a year.

Responsibilities for Scrutinising:

Specific responsibilities for scrutinising the Council's work and performance in relation to Children Looked After

Issues Scrutinised this year:

- Statistical Report and Annual Performance
- Corporate Parenting strategy
- Maintenance of Children's Homes
- Elected Member visits to Children's homes
- Exam Results for Children Looked After
- Regulation 33 Ofsted inspection reports
- Restorative justice and Children's Homes
- Improving access to sexual health support for children in Care
- Adoption Agency Reports
- Children In Care and Care Leavers – Partnership with the University of Derby
- Visit to Bute Walk

Report of the Commission Chair, Councillor Lisa Higginbottom

Some children have difficult life experiences, through no fault of their own and need

to come into the care of the Council. The Children that do come under our care are looked after through a range of settings such as foster care and in children's homes. The responsibility for scrutinising services for looked after children has been given to the Corporate Parenting Sub Commission. The Sub Commission received a range of presentations, considered reports and also carried out a visit to a newly refurbished home. This provided members a valuable opportunity to assess for themselves the quality of services we provide to our children.

I wish to thank members who have carried out visits to children's homes and submitted their reports to the Commission and sincerely hope that these visits will continue to take place in the future.

Children and Young People Commission



Responsibilities for Scrutinising:

All aspects of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's portfolio.

Issues Scrutinised this year:

- Healthy Lives, Brighter Futures – The strategy for Children and Young People's Health
- Funding Contribution to Voices in Action Event
- Performance Eye
- Retained School Balances
- 'My Place'
- World Class Primary Schools Programme
- Schools Merger
- Children and Young People Contract Merger
- Discussion of Children and Young People's Contributions and Suggestions for the Commission's Work Programme
- Child Protection Procedures and the Laming Report
- Annual Children and Young People's Social Care Services Complaints 2008/09
- Grant to Action for Children
- Budget strategy
- Capital and Revenue Budgets 2010/11-2012/13
- Annual Safeguarding Plan
- Performance review Programme

- Voices in Action
- Dyslexia and the role of Educational Psychologists and other professionals
Children's Trust Board

Report of the Commission Chair, Councillor Sara Bolton

Review of the 'Gang Culture' in Derby

The Commission conducted an exceptionally extensive review of the gangs culture in Derby, prompted by the gang related incident in Sunnyhill during November 2008. Evidence was received from a wide range of individuals, organisations and visits during the full investigation. Following this the Commission made a number of recommendations to Cabinet aimed at addressing this important issue.

Throughout the year the Commission has worked closely with its partners, particularly in the Crime and Disorder section. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all officers for their time and efforts spent supporting the Commission with their work. In addition I would like to thank all those who have provided evidence at our meetings, and indeed all the Commission Members for their time given.



Planning and Transportation Commission

Responsibilities for Scrutinising:

All Aspects of the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation's portfolio.

Issues Scrutinised this year:

- Discretionary Home to School Transport
- Duffield Road Bus Lane
- Work Programme
- Performance Monitoring
- City Centre Car Parks Planning and Enforcement
- Review of Capital Budgets 2010/11-2012/13
- LAA Stretch Targets
- Kedleston Road Bus Lane
- Cycle Derby Work Programme
- Vision for 2026
- Section 106 Monies – Expenditure Decision Making Process
- Review of Heritage Assets and Management of the Historic Environment

- Budget Strategy Briefing
- Derby's 3rd Local Transport Plan
- Connecting Derby
- Street Lighting PFI
- City Gate and Related Planning Applications
- Car Parking Issues
- Local Transport Plan Vision Document
- Street Lighting Efficiencies

Report of the Commission Chair, Councillor Chris Poulter

During 2009/10 the Planning and Transportation Commission has been monitoring several public facing services. On the Street Lighting PFI roll-out the installation arrangements had improved sufficiently by the autumn for regular reporting to cease. Continued performance monitoring of the Derbyroads highways maintenance contract has included site visits and meetings with the contractors and client-side managers. In February Members recently visited the new bus station prior to its opening, bringing a passenger's eye perspective, and then held a dialogue with project officers. A number of suggestions were made and acted upon.

Due to concerns aired during the autumn about ward councillors involvement in Section 106 agreements – especially where and what the money is spent on - officers returned in the spring with a draft Protocol on Member and Neighbourhood Involvement in Planning obligations.

The Commission had decided that a major item of their work programme in 2009/10 should be The Historic Environment and in particular Buildings of Heritage and Importance, a new area of responsibility within the Commission's portfolio. It coincides with the recent English Heritage publication 'Making the Most of Your Local Heritage: A Guide for Overview and Scrutiny Committees' Officers in the Regeneration Division prepared a full report to give a local view and answer two key questions:

- a). How can the Historic Environment contribute more toward our Authority's main strategic aims?
- b). How is our Authority protecting key historic assets for future generations?

The comprehensive report referred to Derby's statutory list of Listed Buildings and the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. As a result, practical and affordable steps were suggested to Council Cabinet.

For a third municipal year the home-to-school transport again figured on the agenda and was also to be the subject of the single call-in involving this Commission. As previously it was held at a joint meeting with the Children and Young People Commission. The call-in on the withdrawal of discretionary transport was upheld on 3 grounds with the main reasons being that the savings did not justify the impact on families, the congestion and pollution that would be generated. Further exploration of the issue also strongly suggested that the £1,900 gross cost per child per could be much reduced through a re-tendering process. Cabinet did not though change its

bus services and *cessation* of the little used Shopper Hopper and an undertaking to review a ring road bus service to improve access to the new hospital.

Scrutiny Management Commission



Responsibilities for Scrutinising:

Cabinet Member for Policy, Partnerships and Economic Development; Direct and Internal Services; To act as the Crime and Disorder Committee and any matters that do not fall within the terms of reference of another Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Topics Scrutinised this year:

- CCTV
- Member Satisfaction Survey
- School Meals Project
- Place Survey 2008
- Draft Performance Review Programme 2009/10
- Performance Monitoring
- Corporate Planning Framework
- Delivering Efficient Corporate and Transactional Services
- Strengthening Local Democracy Consultation Paper
- Accommodation Strategy
- Information on Ward by Ward ASBO Applications in Derby
- Capital and Revenue Budget Proposals 2010/11 – 2012/13
- Local Area Agreement Review
- Street Pride
- Review of Grants to Voluntary Organisations
- A protocol for Overview and Scrutiny Investigations
- Forward Plan Analysis
- Structure and resources for Overview and scrutiny Commissions

Topic Reviews:

Improving The Budget Consultation Process for Overview and Scrutiny Commissions

Prompted by responses in last years Members' satisfaction survey, the commission conducted a review into the budget consultation process. Their main concerns focused on unclear terminology used in the budget, and the insufficient and

inconsistent information provided. In July a group of SMC members met the Corporate Director of Resources and Head of Accountancy to talk through their concerns about last year's process and made a number of suggestions on how the scrutiny of budget setting process could be improved for this year's budget.

As a result of the Review the commission agreed to the following changes to this year's budget scrutiny process:

- Each Commission to receive plain English presentation on the Budget Strategy 2010 to 2013 during their October /November meetings
- Holding a special meeting of all members in December to receive Cabinet's budget proposals. It was suggested that this be held on the member training day on 9 December 2009.
- Each Commission to receive supporting background information for each area of the service they are responsible for.
- proposals. It was suggested that this be held on the member training day on 9 December 2009.
- Each Commission to receive supporting background information for each area of the service they are responsible for.

A Review of The Council's Scrutiny Structure

The Commission considered conducting a review to examine the resources available for scrutiny in Derby and to look at ways in which the available resources might be better matched to the Council's scrutiny requirements. Following discussions the Commission decided in the first instance to refer the scoping report to the Political groups to ask for their opinion. On receipt of their responses it was decided that a decision on any structural changes should be deferred until after the Local Elections and the departmental restructure is finalised.

Other work:

Councillor Calls For Action

Councillor Calls for Action (CCfA) are new powers for Local Councillors which were brought into effect on 1 April 2009. They enable any member of the Council to refer to a relevant scrutiny Commission any local government matter or any crime and disorder matter which affects their ward. Councillor Calls for Action are intended to help Councillors to resolve issues and problems on behalf of residents. However the guidance makes it clear that CCfA are a means of last resort and should only be used after other methods have been exhausted.

The Commission considered 2 issues under the CCFA over the last year. These were on the following issues:

- proposed removal of a CCTV camera on Cockayne Street in South Allenton
- anti social behaviour on a pathway between West Avenue North and Venice Close.

In both cases the Commission decided further action could and should be taken by the Ward Councillor before they instigated their powers to investigate further.

Crime and Disorder Committee

New legislation relating to crime and disorder was also put into practice this year with the beginnings of the Scrutiny Management Commissions' work as the

Council's Crime and Disorder Committee. With their crime and disorder hat on the Commission scrutinised ASBO's on a Ward by Ward basis, a draft crime and disorder protocol and their work plan.



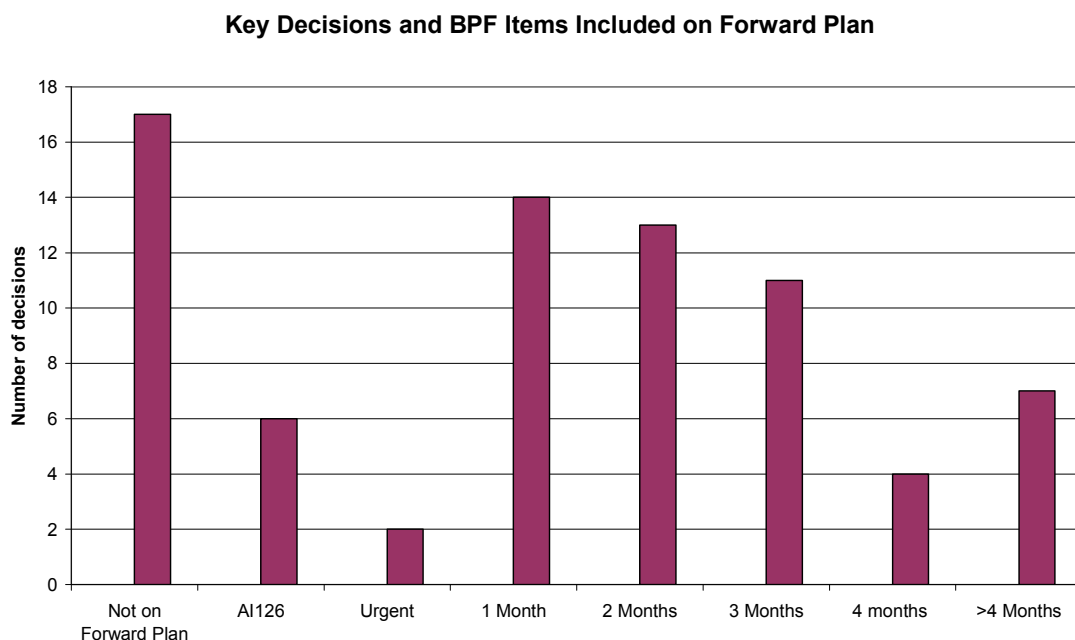
Forward Plan Analysis

The Council Cabinet's Forward Plan is published monthly and contains, or indeed should contain, details of all the Key and Budget Policy Framework decisions that the Council are planning to take in the following four months.

The Scrutiny Management Commission (SMC) raised concerns in 2008 about the number of decisions made by Council Cabinet which either did not appear on the Forward Plan or were made in less than four months of appearing on the Plan.

To address these concerns the SMC requested regular analysis of the Forward Plan and receives regular reports on the accuracy and timeliness of the reporting on this important document.

The table below details the findings of the Commission over the last 12 months



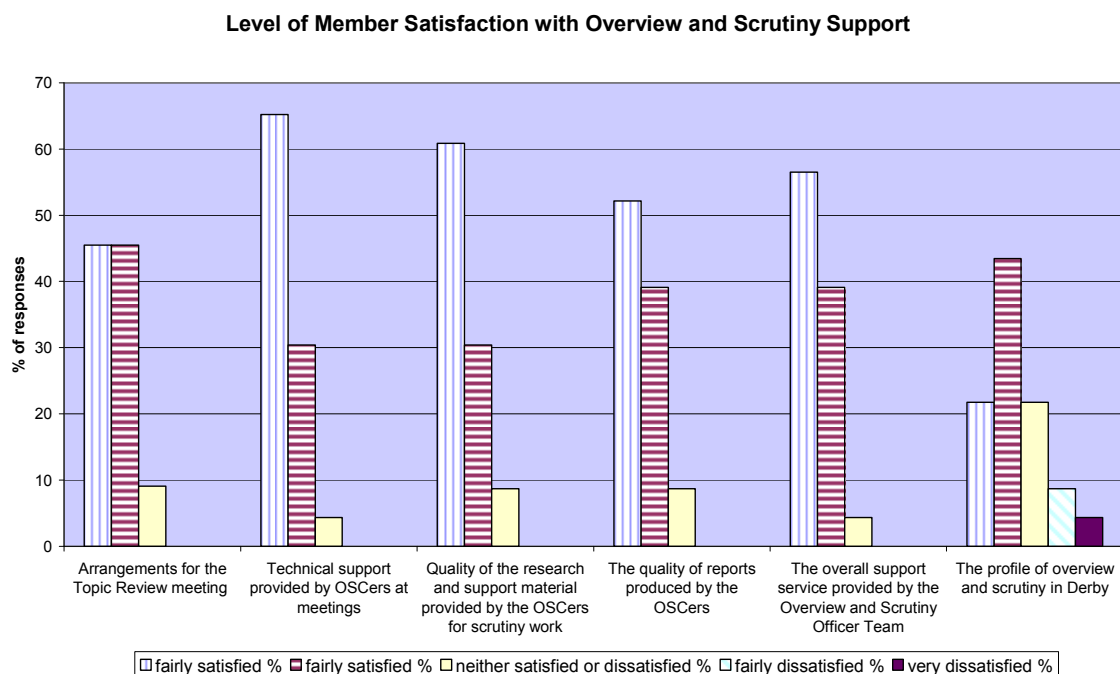
The Commission requested that further assurances be given as to how compliance would be improved and maintained in future. It is envisaged that the Forward Plan analysis will continue and will be monitored in future.

Member Satisfaction Survey 2010

The overview and scrutiny member satisfaction survey is conducted annually and provides valuable information on what members consider to be strengths of the scrutiny function and processes as well as identifying possible areas for improvement.

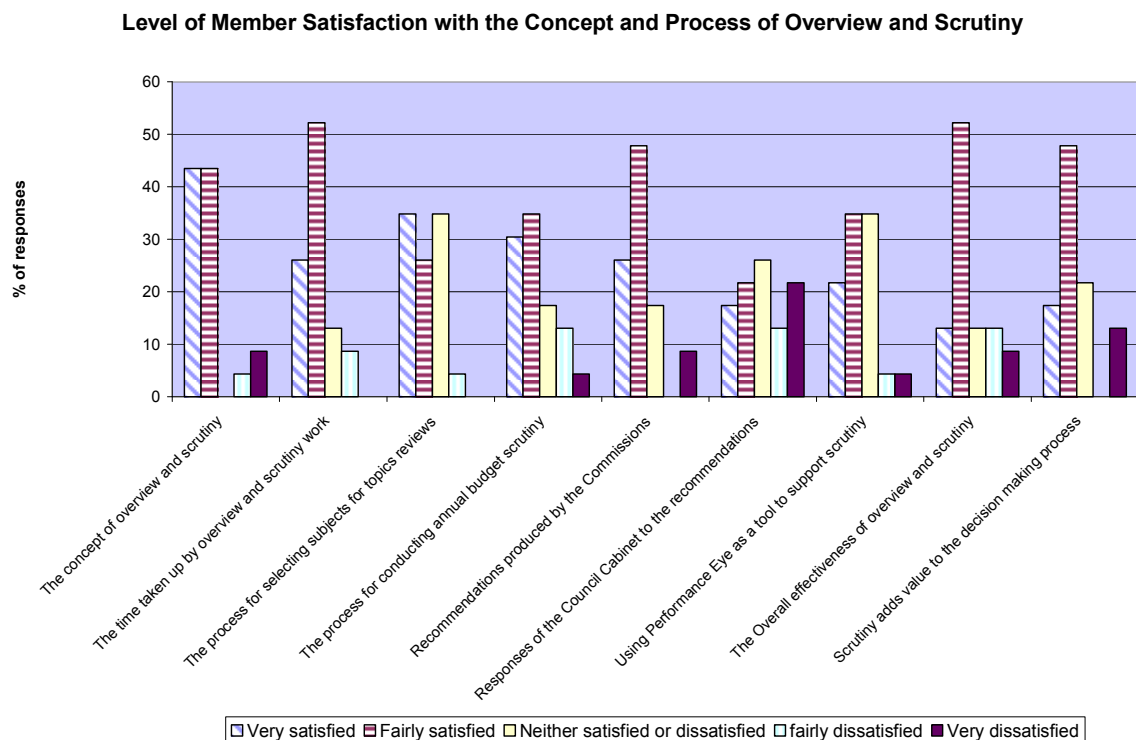
A total of 23 completed forms were received this year from a possible 58 sent out to elected and co-opted members. This gives a response rate of just over 39%, which is slightly down from last year when more than 54% of the completed forms were returned.

Analysing the responses shows a high level of member satisfaction for the overview and scrutiny support process with 90% of the respondents very or fairly satisfied with the arrangements for review meetings, 95% with the technical support provided at meetings and 91% with quality of the research and support material provided by the OSCers for scrutiny work and with the quality of reports produced by the OSCers. The responses confirm that the vast majority of the members 96% of the respondents, are very or fairly satisfied with overall support provided by the Overview and Scrutiny Team.



Looking at the responses related to the concept of overview and scrutiny tells a different story. A significant number of members are dissatisfied with certain aspects of the concept and process of O&S. The highest level of dissatisfaction relates to

the response of Council Cabinet to the Commission recommendations with 35% of the respondents either fairly or very dissatisfied and only 39% are very or fairly satisfied. 22% were fairly or very dissatisfied with overall effectiveness of overview and scrutiny whilst 65% of the respondents were very or fairly satisfied. The time taken up on O&S work has a high level of satisfaction with 86% of the respondents being very or fairly satisfied and 13 % fairly or very dissatisfied.



Member comments

Members were asked to give their comments about the O&S based on their experience and these are presented under various headings verbatim below.

Adding value

The scrutiny process has potential to add value but needs to be treated seriously and recommendations valued not diminished . **O&S Member**

Scrutiny must add value or there is little point in using it however I am both concerned and disappointed that cabinet heed few of the recommendations (Exeter House). The dedication and time spent by oscar and members is wasted if recommendations are not accepted. **O&S Member**

May be consideration should be given to have an annual agenda set up at the start of the Civic year for Commissions – this would allow for fall back work in the absence of current items to scrutinise – In SMC there was no item for topic review this year, and in the CYP commission a meeting was cancelled due to lack of items. **O&S Member**

Having sat on the Climate Change Commission as a co-opted member for the past

3 years, I do not feel that my contributions or time given made any difference to any Council decisions. Therefore I do not feel scrutiny is providing a worthwhile role, despite the excellent general assistance from OSCers. **Co-opted Member**

Member Involvement

... I am very disappointed with the member involvement this year, as there seems to be a lack of interest by some councillors. **O&S Member**

Members involved in Scrutiny find it difficult to identify the problem areas that need looking at. There is a continual need to remind Members that Scrutiny does not work when it becomes political. **Cabinet Member**

It is very important that O&S work hard at the coal face, with Cabinet, to achieve high standards, within our city, making major improvements within our Communities. **O&S Member**

More involvement in the process outside meetings of the whole Commission rather than just the Chair & vice chair. This may be done by regular updates, say once a month on the work programme. **O&S Member**

Links with the Cabinet

The extremely lengthy topic review on Gangs that we started last municipal year and finished this municipal year was most interesting, I just hope our recommendations are acted upon. **O&S Member**

Again, Council Cabinet has largely ignored any recommendations, Call-ins raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission. **O&S Member**

More communication with the Cabinet. So we can see them taking the recommendations seriously. **O&S Member**

The work from the Forward Plan has also been limited as there has not been the variety of topics to scrutinise. For example, one month there were no topics at all listed for the Children and Young People department. **O&S Member**

I would like to see more direct conversation with the Cabinet Member. **O&S Member**

... Lib Dems could show it more respect and it could have the same level of responsibility allowances as Cabinet members, to give it parity of esteem and equity with the Cabinet members. But this is not going to happen. **O&S Member**

With reference to responses of the Council Cabinet to recommendations, the Council Cabinet should take far more advice/notice by OSC. After all they are cross party. **O&S Member**

Politicising scrutiny

It is getting far too political with few members in the cabinet with the intellect or commitment to take decisions for the people of the city instead of the election campaign. **O&S Member**

There have been many Occasions where scrutiny chairs have politicised meetings – OSCer's should be pro-active in reminding all members that Scrutiny is non political – Where Cabinet member's are invited OSCer's should consult on availability and also be in a position to state whether a Cabinet member has been invited to the meeting; and indeed invite them if requested. Chair's have accused Cabinet for failing to attend when there is no clear invitation – OSCer's should be the inviters at the request of the Chair. Cabinet should also take up the opportunity to attend to share there knowledge in a non political manner. **O&S Member**

The Scrutiny process relies on planning reviews quite a way in advance meaning that more immediate problems are often omitted from agenda. **O&S Member**

The role and purpose for specific work that a commission does needs clarity and should be agreed up front. One particular example is the way in which the Climate Change Commission scrutinised the waste management contract. This was not clear and approved to change during the process to suit the chair's desire. **O&S Member**

O&S Resources

It also needs one OSCer per commission ideally. **O&S Member**

There are too few of them, the point will come very soon when breaking point is reached, they need more oscar and support staff. **O&S Member**

We have Overview and Scrutiny team that works extremely hard to deliver. **O&S Member**