

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

FULL COUNCIL – 17 NOVEMBER 2003

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
22 October 2003

Training

The Committee received notification of a forthcoming member training event for members of the West London Alliance. It would be held on 1st December and it would be on the subject scrutiny/overview. The Committee discussed the Children and Young People's Services Strategic Plan for 2003/4 commissioned by the Children and Young People's Priority Action Group. The plan would be submitted to the Executive for approval thereafter by Full Council.

Existing Task Groups

The Overview Committee considered reports from three of its Task Groups. The Waste Management Task Group had completed its work and presented findings for submission to the Executive. The report was welcomed and agreed that the issues relating to planning be forwarded to the Planning Committee for consideration. The Quality of Life for Older People Task Group has completed Phase 1 of its work plan and submitted its findings on the needs of older people, future trends, identifying gaps and weaknesses in existing provision. The Committee endorsed Phase 2 which would consider accessible information on what is available for older people. It was hoped that this work would inform a subsequent theme of 'active citizenship'. The Committee noted the progress of the Housing Density and Urban Impacts Task Group which was at the research stage and had considered the key documents and policy framework which surround the central government drive towards building higher density dwellings.

The Committee received an update from the Chair of the Health Overview Panel on the Panel's work and on the establishment of the Tuberculosis Task Group. Members also discussed the new structures for involving patients and public in health, following on from the demise of Community Health Councils in December.

New Task Groups

Members also agreed to the establishment of a new task group on the use of information from area consultative and user forums and the most effective process for incorporating incoming information into the overview and scrutiny functions. The Committee also agreed to establish a short-term, all-party task group to consider the impact of post office closures and access to cash and banking services.

Co-opted members

It was noted that the agenda indicated any items of particular interest to the Education co-opted members.

Councillor N Nerva
Chair, Overview Committee