

SUMMONS ITEM 8(c)

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2003

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the Scrutiny Committee in 2003/2004 took place on 18th June 2003. As a result of the new scrutiny structure that was adopted in May 2003, the next meeting of the Committee is not scheduled to take place until 1st April 2004 at which time it will consider, amongst other things, the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Panels and Select Committees throughout the municipal year.

The Quality of Life Scrutiny Panel, Social Care Scrutiny Panel and Lifelong Learning Panel have each met once with the next round of Panel meetings scheduled between late-September and early-November 2003. Having discussed working practices and identified future work areas, each of the Panels are on their way to achieving effective service-based scrutiny.

At its first meeting on 25th June 2003, the Quality of Life Panel agreed that individual Panel Members should conduct informal information-gathering investigations with officers between meetings. It is anticipated that Panel Members will feedback on a wide range of issues at its next scheduled meeting on 23rd September 2003 and agree which areas require further scrutiny.

A special meeting of the Quality of Life Scrutiny Panel took place on 1st September 2003 at which The Chair of the Task Group, Councillor Fiegel, presented the final report of the Roads/ Use of Road Space Task Group. The Quality of Life Panel considered this report and the outcome will be reported to the Executive.

The Forward Plan Select Committee has met three times and progress has been made regarding improving clarity of information on the Forward Plan and developing effective working practices by the Select Committee. To date the Members have requested a number of briefing notes clarifying the details of reports that are expected to go to the Executive for consideration at a future date. Topics that have been identified on various issues of the Forward Plan and looked at further to varying degrees include the reports on Trading Standards, Neasden Pavillion and Citizenship Ceremonies.

The Performance and Finance Select Committee has met once and identified ways to ensure that the host of performance indicators and statistics available to Select Committee Members are used appropriately to ensure effective scrutiny of all performance and finance related issues in the future. With only six meetings scheduled for the year and a substantial work programme it is anticipated that the Select Committee will need to continue prioritising issues for consideration over the course of the year.

Councillor T Taylor
Chair, Scrutiny