

SUMMONS ITEM 7(b)

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 28 July 2003

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
– 15th April 2003 Meeting**

At its meeting on 15th April 2003, the Overview Committee considered reports from two of its three Task Groups. The Young People and Citizenship Overview Task Group had almost completed its work but sought to include reference to the recently emerged issue of children and young people possibly demonstrating an interest in a particular aspect of citizenship by leaving school to protest against the war in Iraq. The final report from the Task Group looking at the Scrutiny of Health was put before the Committee and provoked a discussion on the implications of the many functions of the Community Health Councils being dealt with by different bodies. The proposed work programme for the new Health Panel was also considered and seen to be ambitious but it was made clear that this was a list of candidate priority areas.

The Committee discussed the manner in which the final reports of Overview Task Groups should be taken forward to the Executive and into the mainstream of the Council's work. A process by which the recommendations could be taken to the Executive through an informal briefing with the Leader and relevant Lead Members before being formally submitted was agreed. While it was noted that, once considered by the Executive, the decisions arising from the Overview recommendations would become part of the main system of the discharge of the Council's duties and would be subject to usual means of tracking of the Executive's work and possibly through Scrutiny, the Committee requested that they receive feedback in relation to the initial reports.

The Overview Committee then briefly considered the new Overview Task Groups that were just beginning their work on 'Housing Density and Urban Impact' and 'Quality of Life for Older People'.

Councillor M Farrell
Vice-Chair in the Chair, Overview Committee

SUMMONS ITEM 7(b) CONT'D

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 28 July 2003

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
– 25th June 2003 Meeting**

The Overview Committee met on 25th June 2003 and the first item was a presentation on Member Development opportunities. The Committee then considered its work programme and progress during the first year. The possibilities and benefits of making greater use of consultation in the work of Overview were considered.

There was a lengthy discussion around the proposed recommendations from the Waste Management Task Group and this will be the major topic at the next meeting of the Committee. In the meantime, some recommendations relating to Planning matters have been referred to the Planning Committee for consideration at their policy meetings.

The two new Task Groups on 'Quality of Life for Older People' and 'Housing Density and Urban Impact' gave brief updates on their initial work and planned terms of reference.

Following the changes made to the Constitution by the Council in May 2003, there is now a Health Overview Panel. At the time of the meeting the panel had not yet met but the Committee was updated regarding arrangements and objectives by the Chair of the Panel. The first main activity by the panel in scrutinising health provision on behalf of the local authority will be to examine the issue of TB in Brent. This issue was seen to be of particular local relevance and to involve many cross-cutting local authority services such as housing and deprivation.

It was noted that there had been little on the agenda to interest the co-opted members for Education but separate discussions had been held with the Lead Member of Education, Arts and Libraries in the hope of addressing this for the future.

Councillor N Nerva
Chair, Overview Committee