

SUMMONS ITEM 8(c)

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

FULL COUNCIL – 20th October 2003

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Since the last meeting of Council in September, the next phase of Select Committee and Scrutiny Panel meetings has commenced.

Coming out of the third meeting of the **Quality of Life Scrutiny Panel** on 23rd September 2003, a number of areas were identified for future and on-going consideration. The Panel acknowledged that the report of the Roads/Use of Road Space Task Group would be presented to the Executive in November 2003, following the Panel's earlier discussions. Panel Members then received a detailed presentation on Wembley redevelopment from the Director of Environment who outlined progress on the stadium and other current redevelopment projects. It was agreed that the Panel would receive regular updates on this matter. At this meeting there was also some discussion regarding a number of items that had been requested onto the agenda, including the Review of Youth and Community Centres and the Street Lighting PFI. In response to some concerns raised by Members, it was agreed that the Lead Officer would attend the next Panel meeting to enable a further discussion on some of the proposals coming out of the Review of Youth and Community Centres, which are also to be subject to further reports to the Executive. Following a discussion about the Street Lighting PFI the Panel asked that all Members be written to asking if they have any views on the adequacy of the new street lighting being installed.

At the second meeting of the **Performance and Finance Select Committee** in early October, Members received an update on the current performance of the Revenue and Benefits Service, which is now a regular item on the agenda. There was also a discussion regarding the monitoring tools available to the Select Committee such as the Vital Signs document and the Annual Performance Plan. Following some discussion about areas of low and under/performance across the Council, the Select Committee identified a number of areas where it was felt that further consideration at future meetings was necessary, including staff sickness absence across the Council and learning disabilities.

The **Scrutiny Management Board** is scheduled to meet on 16th October 2003 and Members will consider a number of issues arising from the operation of the new scrutiny structure.

The **Forward Plan Select Committee** is due to meet shortly for the fourth time, where it will consider a number of main items such as Kingsbury Pool Development and the Rent Review – Refectory and Central Middlesex Hospital. It will also consider a series of briefing notes on issues such as Citizenship Ceremonies, The Role of BACES Advisory Board and Liquor Licensing. Coming out of the third meeting, there is now an established method of working and requesting information from Senior Officers and

Lead Members, who are now regularly invited to attend meetings and respond directly to the Select Committee's concerns and queries.

The **Social Care** and **Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panels** will meet over the coming fortnight.

Councillor Taylor
Chair, Scrutiny Committee