

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

FULL COUNCIL – 27TH NOVEMBER 2006

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

This is my second report to Full Council, and I am pleased to be able to update Members on the meetings of the overview and scrutiny committees and sub-committees that have taken place since my last report.

The first meeting of the newly established Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee took place on 9th November 2006. Members heard from the Director of Children and Families about the key issues regarding Looked After Children in Brent, and the steps being taken to reduce out of borough placements and increase the number of Brent carers. The Committee were also informed about the provision for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN). Following a report on the issue of the academic and educational outcomes for children and young people from Black Caribbean and some Black African heritage groups, it was agreed that a task group would be established to investigate this issue further.

Following the previous meeting of the Performance and Finance Select Committee, it was decided that the date of next meeting should be brought forward to give members sufficient opportunity to scrutinise the Waste Management Contract. At this meeting, which took place on 9th November, Members agreed that a report on the performance of the new Waste Services Contract should be considered by the Select Committee within 4 to 6 months of the commencement of the contract. In addition, Members agreed that regular performance indicator updates of the contract should be provided on a ward by ward basis, and that this information should also be made available to Ward Councillors.

The second meeting of the Budget Panel is due to take place on 21st November 2006 at which the Director for Housing and Community Care has been asked to attend to update Members on the budget issues affecting his service area and set out future budget prospects. The Lead Member for Adults and Social Care has also been requested to attend for this item. Furthermore, Members are to be given the opportunity to question the Leader of the Council on the Corporate Strategy 2006-10 and the Panel will examine the proposals arising from the First Reading Debate of the budget. Finally, I would note that the Panel will have met again three times before the next meeting of Full Council. I will therefore be in a position to provide a full update on the contribution of the Panel to the overall budget process in my next report.

**Councillor Dorman Long,
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee**