



Overview and Scrutiny Committee 17th April 2007

Report from the Director of Policy and Regeneration

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Suggested topics for Overview and Scrutiny task groups.

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report sets out suggested topics for overview and scrutiny task groups.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to review the attached list and determine the next two task groups to be undertaken.

3.0 Detail

3.1 At the O&S committee meeting on 19th October 2006 members were presented with a list of suggested topics for scrutiny task groups. The committee agreed to look at Voluntary Sector Funding and Tourism. These task groups are due to complete their work and report to the first overview and scrutiny committee in the new municipal year, which is likely to be at the end of May. In order to ensure that new task groups are established as soon as resources are available, Members are asked to review the refreshed list of suggested topics attached at **Appendix 1** and determine which two topics should be looked at next.

3.2 Task group activity is a valuable aspect of the overview and scrutiny process. They also provide a useful, in-depth look at a specific area which contributes to improvement across the council. They can also provide a good way of involving local residents, many of whom would not usually engage with the council. Task groups can also respond to critical issues and areas of concern as they arise. This was demonstrated recently with the Health Select Committee establishing a task group to look into the impact of the financial crisis in Brent Primary Care Trust.

- 3.3 Suggested task group topics were put forward by the service departments as areas which would benefit from review. Members may also have possible ideas for task groups that they would like the Committee to consider.

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