

Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Organisation Committee

Date: 17th November 2003

Report of: The Director, Communications and Democratic Services

Subject: Update on Current Scrutiny Reviews, and Education and Health Scrutiny

Ward(s) affected: All

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To report the progress made on current scrutiny reviews, and update Members on developments in the scrutiny function including the Education and Health Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

3. Completed Scrutiny Reviews

War Memorial Railings Scrutiny Panel

- 3.1 The report of findings and recommendations of the War Memorial Railings Scrutiny Review appears under item 44 on the agenda.

4. Scrutiny Reviews currently in Progress

Hove Centre Lettings Policy Scrutiny Panel

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Panel for Hove Centre Lettings Policy have met 3 times. The Panel have received written and verbal evidence from the following:

Councillor Les Hamilton; President of Hove Lions; Secretary of the Brighton & Hove Decorative and Fine Arts Society; Assistant Director Major Projects, BHCC ; Head of Venues, BHCC; Licensing Officer, Sussex Police; Environmental Health & Licensing Manager, BHCC; Chairman of The Sussex Bonsai Group; and Hon. Secretary of the Oddity, Sodality & Benevolence Society

- 4.2 The Panel have looked at information concerning the change in policy, current lettings figures and have also compared venue hire of Hove Centre with that of other Local Authorities. Members of the Panel are considering whether they need to look at further information before discussing their recommendations.

Procurement Scrutiny Panel

- 4.2 The 5-Member Procurement Scrutiny Panel comprises Councillors Joyce Edmond-Smith, Juliet McCaffery, Ken Norman, Sue Paskins and Jan Young. A first meeting planned for early November was postponed when a clash of diary appointments came to light at a late stage. A new date in November or early December is being arranged.

The Dome Scrutiny Panel

- 4.3 The Dome Scrutiny Panel chaired by Councillor Kevin Allen had its first meeting on 27th October to scope the scrutiny review. Details to follow

5. Education Overview and Scrutiny Panel (EOSP)

- 5.1 The Education Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 23rd September considered a request for scrutiny submitted by Councillor Wrighton and the Councillors of the Green group, of the private finance initiative relating to East Brighton College of Media Arts (COMART).
- 5.2 EOSP agreed to reconsider the scrutiny request in March 2004, by which time the current COMART consultation process would be further advanced and officers could present a fuller report, for example on experience of pfi in other schools.

6. Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP)

- 6.1 The Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel held the first formal meeting on 5th November. Presentations coordinated by Brighton and Hove City Primary Care Trust set out key issues on the health of the City, health inequalities and the structure and operation of local health organisations.
- 6.2 HOSP Terms of Reference and a method of developing a work programme were discussed and agreed.
- 6.3 The Panel also considered a request for scrutiny of GP practice boundaries submitted by Councillors Mrs Ann Norman and Mrs Vanessa Brown.
- 6.4 Draft minutes of the HOSP meeting will be presented to OSOC.

APPENDIX 1

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| Meeting/Date | 17th November 2003 Overview and Scrutiny Organisation Committee |
| Report of | Director, Communications and Democratic Services |
| Subject | Progress on scrutiny reviews and Education and Health Scrutiny |
| Wards affected | All |

Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

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| Corporate/Citywide implications | Risk assessment |
| There are no direct corporate/citywide implications arising from this report. | No risk assessment has been undertaken in relation to this report. |
| Sustainability implications | Equalities implications |
| There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report. | There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. |
| Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder | |
| There are no direct implications for the prevention of crime and disorder arising from this report | |

Background papers

None

Contact Officers

Penny Jennings, Committee Administrator, 29 - 1065 (Education Overview and Scrutiny Panel)

John Chard, Principal Committee Administrator, 29 - 1227 (Development of Health Scrutiny)

Kathryn Gorse, Committee Administrator, 29 - 1084 (Hove Centre Lettings Panel, Dome Scrutiny Panel)

Mary van Beinum, Committee Administrator, 29 - 1062 (OSOC)

