

For general release

**Meeting:** Overview and Scrutiny Organisation Committee  
**Date:** 15 November 2004  
**Report of:** The Director of Cultural Services  
**Subject:** Update on Current Scrutiny Reviews and EOSP and HOSP  
**Ward(s) affected:** All

**1. Purpose of the report**

1.1 To report the progress made on current scrutiny reviews, and to update Members on developments in the scrutiny function including the Education and Health Overview and Scrutiny Panels and replies to scrutiny recommendations from the executive committees.

**2. Recommendations**

2.1 That the report be noted.

**3. Scrutiny Reviews Currently in Progress**

3.1 Hove Centre Lettings Policy Scrutiny Panel

3.1.1 The Scrutiny Panel for Hove Centre Lettings Policy Chaired by Councillor David Watkins. Councillor Watkins has acknowledged the limited support during the continuing absence of the scrutiny support officer. However, in the light of the extra support that is now being sought he anticipates that the Panel's work will be concluded in the foreseeable future and that the Panel's conclusions will be available at the next meeting.

3.2 Procurement Scrutiny Panel

3.2.1 The Procurement Scrutiny Panel has now concluded its report and the final report appears elsewhere on the agenda.

3.3 The Dome Scrutiny Panel

3.3.1 The Dome Scrutiny Panel chaired by Councillor Kevin Allen has met on two occasions since the last meeting of the Committee. The Panel's work has now been completed and the draft report is being finalised. It is

anticipated that the final report will be available for consideration by the Committee at its next meeting.

#### **3.4 Communal Bins Consultation Scrutiny Panel**

- 3.4.1 The Panel's report has now been published and will be submitted to the full Council on 25 November 2004 together with the executive response.

#### **4. Education Overview and Scrutiny Panel (EOSP)**

- 4.1 Before proceeding to their formal business Members observed a minutes silence in memory of Mr. Andy Magrath a parent governor representative who had died during the summer holiday period.
- 4.2 At its meeting held on 5 October the Panel considered a letter submitted by Councillor Ann Norman (Deputy Chair) setting out her concern and disquiet regarding the potential effects caused by the withdrawal of school bus services. It was noted that the matter was being actively pursued to seek to enable these services to continue and it was agreed that the Chair Councillor Hamilton should write a letter for inclusion on the agenda for the meeting of the Environment Committee to be held on 21 October 2004. Dependant upon the outcome of those negotiations it was agreed that the matter should also be referred to OSOC for further consideration and that the issue could be a suitable matter for scrutiny and, that if so a definitive decision needed to be taken regarding the means by which this could best be achieved. Both of the letters referred to appear elsewhere on this agenda.

#### **5. Comart PFI Scrutiny Panel**

- 5.1 An inaugural meeting of the Panel had been held at which Members had requested further background information which they considered would be instrumental in informing their further deliberations and in deciding on those they might wish to interview. Further meeting dates had been set. Following the death of Mr. Magrath and the stepping down of Councillor Lepper from the Comart Scrutiny Panel but not from EOSP itself there were two vacancies. Mrs. A. Antonio, representing the NUT and Councillor Hamilton had expressed a willingness to serve on the Comart Scrutiny Panel. In accordance with the Constitution, their appointments were formally approved by ECSP.

#### **6. Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP)**

- 6.1 There has been one meeting since the last meeting of the Committee. A copy of the draft minutes appears elsewhere on the agenda.
- 6.2 The Panel has agreed to participate in a Joint Committee with East and West Sussex county Councils to consider a consultation from the health authority concerning future health service arrangements throughout

Brighton and Hove and parts of East and West Sussex. It is anticipated that the consultation period will run until 14 February 2005. It may well be that the Panel may wish to submit separate views about the implications of the proposed changes.

6.3 The Panel has been informed that it will be consulted next year on proposed changes to the arrangements for dealing with mental health services throughout Sussex. It may well be necessary to establish another Joint Committee to consider the consultation.

6.4 The Panel will be meeting representatives of the Patients Forums in early December to discuss matters of mutual interest and concern.

## **7 Requests for scrutiny/letters to OSOC**

There were none. However, there has been a request from the Policy and Resources Committee for a review of the EB4U project and that appears elsewhere on the agenda.

## APPENDIX 1

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|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Meeting/Date</b>   | <b>15 November 2004</b><br><b>Overview and Scrutiny Organisation Committee</b> |
| <b>Report of</b>      | <b>Director of Cultural Services</b>   |
| <b>Subject</b>        | <b>Progress on scrutiny reviews</b>  |
| <b>Wards affected</b> | <b>All</b>   |

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

### **Background papers**

None

### **Contact Officer**

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