

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIR – COUNCILLOR HAMILTON:

SCRUTINY AT BRIGHTON AND HOVE 2004-5

2004-5 was an interesting year for OSOC and the scrutiny/overview function. Long-term staff sickness presented serious difficulties and confirmed that scrutiny needed additional resources to operate efficiently and effectively. Some scrutiny reviews were effectively put on hold, and Mark Wall, assisted by officers from Members Services, ensured that the scheduled meetings were able to proceed. Following a review an additional full-time scrutiny post was established, which is operating as a job share.

The scrutiny function was also transferred from Cultural Services to Strategy and Governance. Following an informative seminar, a fresh look was taken at the overview and scrutiny functions, and proposed changes have been agreed that will allow further development and greater awareness of what OSOC, EOSP and HOSP are doing.

Having completed two years as Chair I have moved to pastures new. I would like to thank all those members who have served on the scrutiny committees and especially those who have served on the scrutiny panels, which are very demanding in terms of time, often necessitating a dozen or more meetings. Sincere thanks to all those officers who saw us through a difficult year, and I am sure that under the new arrangements with committed officers and members, scrutiny will continue to play an important role in the work of the Council.

Councillor Les Hamilton
Chair, OSOC 2003-2005
July 2005