



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Brighton & Hove City Council
King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove BN3 2LS

Cllr Jason Kitcat
Chair, Policy & Resources Committee

Date: 12 April 2013

Our Ref:

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Dear Jason,

As Chairs of the council's two Overview and Scrutiny Committees we thought it opportune to write to the Policy and Resources Committee following the recent council debate on the constitution to highlight where the current scrutiny arrangement is working well, but also where we think there is room for improvement.

The current scrutiny work programme of policy and scrutiny panels is broad in scope and seeks to deal with significant issues affecting residents of the city. Current panels are addressing public toilet provision, the negative impact of alcohol, best practice with regard to bullying in schools, services for children with autistic spectrum conditions and social value in procurement.

The council has a strong track-record of utilising scrutiny to address difficult issues; a good recent example can be seen in the report of the Trans Equality Panel which we believe you will be considering at a future meeting.

Where there is perhaps more room for improvement in the new arrangements is the flow of issues from policy committees to scrutiny for in-depth member involvement in policy development. This would also aid the alignment of the scrutiny work-programme more closely with corporate plan objectives.

Scrutiny has an excellent reputation for enabling elected members of all political persuasions to understand and contribute to the development of policies, delivering reports that support objective, consensual decision-making.

We're sure that there must be issues on the radar of policy committees that would benefit from this approach and we are eager to work more closely to deliver better outcomes for our city.

Best wishes,

Cllr Warren Morgan
Chair Overview & Scrutiny

&

Cllr Sven Rufus
Chair Health & Wellbeing
Overview & Scrutiny

