

REGENERATION AND CITIZENSHIP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2003/04

Introduction

The Council's constitution, introduced in December 2001, provides that each of the scrutiny committees reports once a year to the Scrutiny Board. This is the second annual report of the Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee

During the municipal year covered by this report the Membership of the Committee was as follows:

Chair	Councillor R. J. Davis
Vice Chair	Councillor Strange
Member	Councillor A. Hussain
Member	Councillor Mead
Member	Councillor Shaw
Member	Councillor Simmons

The terms of reference of the Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee cover the following:

Executive portfolios	Citizenship and Quality of Life Regeneration and Employment
Functions	Physical regeneration Inward Investment Major Projects Economic Development Heritage and Tourism Jobs and Training Business Advice and Interface New Deal – Welfare to Work Funding Regimes and Lottery Single Regeneration Budget European New Deal for Communities Regionalism Sports Action Zone Community Empowerment Democracy and Citizenship Community Plan Social Regeneration Culture and Arts Crime and Community Safety Equalities

Leisure and Amenities
Consumer Protection (*i.e. Trading Standards and Environmental Health – except for pollution control and pest control*)
Community and Leisure Centres

Mentors

The Scrutiny Board appointed Councillors Roden and McGarvie to oversee the work of the Regeneration and Citizenship scrutiny committee

Panels

Members of Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee serve on the Swimming Pool and Leisure Facilities Panel, the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel and the Best Value Scrutiny Panel.

The Role of Scrutiny Committees

The role of scrutiny committees is as follows

- To hold the Executive to account
 - By considering Executive decisions which are 'called in'
 - By giving advice to the Executive about matters included in their forward plan
- To monitor and evaluate performance using
 - Performance Indicators and
 - Best Value reviews of services
- To examine topics of public interest or concern
- To consider topics referred by the Executive
- To undertake policy development, review and revision
- To undertake the role of community champion
 - By reviewing the performance of other public and 'common' services
 - By considering matters affecting the area and/or local people

Work completed

The Committee has met generally every four weeks throughout the last municipal year. The Committee continued with the work programme that had previously been set on the basis of the advice tendered by the Scrutiny Board to choose a limited number of topics and to carry out an in depth scrutiny of those topics.

The topics programmed for 2003-04 were as follows.

In depth scrutiny	Monitoring
Community Safety	New Deal for Communities
Regeneration Initiatives (including New Deal for Communities)	The Hat Factory
	Anti-Social Behaviour measures

The topics considered by the Committee are set out in the attached appendix.

The committee undertook the annual consultation with partners, stakeholders and applicants about the officers' proposals for grants to voluntary organisations before their consideration by the Executive.

Best Value Reviews

The reports of Community Development and Sport and P.E. reviews were considered by the Committee before being submitted to the Executive for decision.

Performance

The Committee, following the advice of the Scrutiny Board, appointed two Members to monitor statistical information about the service delivery performance of services coming within the remit of the committee. The Members appointed to this task were Councillors Shaw and Strange. There were no performance issues referred to the Committee by the two nominated Members.

During the Course of the year the Scrutiny Board decided that each of the scrutiny committees should receive reports on the priority performance indicators relating to services within their remit.

Work in Progress

The committee has assembled a considerable amount of evidence on the topic of community safety as a result of interviewing witnesses and has decided to focuss on the links between crime and the misuse of illegal drugs. The Drug Action Team has been developing an information pack for use by counsellors and advice agencies and it is hoped this will be a useful tool for Councillors to use in surgeries and when giving advice to constituents.

The topic of 'Regeneration Initiatives' has been focussed down to the Bury Park Area (generally the wards of Biscot and Dallow) and the committee has been taking evidence about the range of initiatives and programmes and the level of funding applied to such schemes in the area over the last five years. The next step will be to evaluate the effectiveness of the initiatives by asking the delivery agencies to provide information about the outputs and, if possible, the outcomes so that these can be compared to what was predicted when funding was applied for. This area based review may be a pilot for similar reviews in other areas of the town.

The committee has continued to monitor the progress made by the Marsh Farm Community Development Trust in implementing the programme of schemes funded by the Government from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

The March meeting was devoted to a detailed consideration of applications from voluntary organisations for grants from the Council and the recommendations to be made by the officers working group to the Executive. The committee heard from representatives of most of the applicant organisations. The committee submitted detailed recommendations for consideration by the Executive.

The Hat Factory will be reviewed when the committee meets there in April after it is fully open for business.

Future Work Programme

The Committee is continuing with the two major topics that are currently under way, namely Community Safety and Regeneration Initiatives. Further topics may be added as a result of consultation with partners, stakeholders, Councillors and employees.

Councillor R.J. Davis
Chair of the Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee

8th April 2004