

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF THE ACTING DEMOCRATIC SERVICES  
MANAGER  
Agenda item 13.1

**6. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2006/2007**

Attached, at Appendix C is the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Manager.

**RECOMMEND - That the proposed forward work programmes for 2006/07 identified by the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees, with the exception of the Cabinet Overview & Scrutiny Committee, be approved.**

**7. Changes in Committee Memberships**

The Conservative Group has indicated that they wish to make the following change.

**RECOMMEND – That Councillor Matthew Offord be removed from the Welsh Harp Joint Negotiation Committee leaving a Conservative vacancy.**

**8. Amendment to items on the Agenda:**

**(i) Agenda Item 8.1: Motion in the name of Councillor Kath McGuirk – amendments in the names of**

**Councillor Linda McFadyen:**

“Add at end:

"Council welcomes and supports the decision of the Chipping Barnet Area Environment Sub-committee on 19 July to reject the introduction of new CPZs in the Whetstone and Oakleigh Park Station areas in early 2007, and Council notes the committee's decision to proceed with the introduction of a CPZ in New/East Barnet.

Council notes that the three proposed CPZs would have raised £466,000 gross per year.

Council agrees that CPZs must not be used to raise revenue for Barnet Council.

Council asks the Working Group to consider whether there is a democratic deficit when an officer/Cabinet Member introduce a CPZ under delegated powers without seeking the final approval of the relevant area environment sub-committee or undertaking further consultation of ward councillors, and to bring forward any appropriate recommendations.

Council asks the Working Group to investigate the views of residents on whether decisions about the final introduction and review of CPZs might be better be taken at meetings open to the public, and to bring forward any appropriate recommendation.

Council asks the Cabinet to defer decisions on the implementation of any proposed new CPZs until after the Working Group has presented its recommendations.””

Councillor McFadyen has requested, in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule, Part 4, Section 1, 31.5 that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, it be voted upon at the Council meeting.

**Councillor Duncan Macdonald:**

“insert after the words "working group to"

"1)"

add after the word residents

"2) Consider proposals which will ensure future CPZ implementations are based on traffic management principles and not simply revenue raising.

3) Consider proposals which will enable the Council to secure powers to act quickly to amend CPZ's where it can be demonstrated that they are not working, or where there is identified abuse of the system.””

**Councillor Matthew Offord**

“Amend the Motion so that it reads:

“Council welcomes the new Customer Focused parking policy, one that has frozen CPZ charges, and that will review all Controlled Parking Zones across the Borough.

Council further welcomes the Cleaner, Greener, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s establishment of a Working Group to review Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) consultation processes, which is to report in February 2007.

Consultation of and engagement with residents, business and ward councillors on the introduction and review of CPZs are a priority for Barnet Council. Council asks the Working Group to consider how the introduction, monitoring and review of CPZs can continue to be transparent and accessible to residents.””

Councillor Offord has requested, in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule, Part 4, Section 1, 31.5 that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, it be voted upon at the Council meeting.

**(ii) Agenda Item 8.2: Motion in the name of Councillor Andrew McNeil – amendment in the name of**

**Councillor Geof Cooke:**

“Add at end:

"Council supports the manifesto commitments given by the Conservative administration and the opposition groups for the inclusion of plastics and cardboard within the current kerbside recycling service when the contract comes up for renewal.

Council notes that residents often ask ward councillors when the Council will begin recycling plastics and cardboard. In order to keep all scrutiny councillors and residents informed of progress, Council therefore asks the Cabinet to bring forward a report to the Cabinet meeting on 27 November 2006 to include setting out: developments so far with regard to securing plastics and cardboard within the kerbside recycling service, the proposed timetable for renewal of the contract, the inclusion of more flats within the recycling service, financial information, and projected improvements to the borough's recycling rate.”

Councillor Cooke has requested, in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule, Part 4, Section 1, 31.5 that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, it be voted upon at the Council meeting.

**(iii) Agenda Item 8.3: Motion in the name of Councillor Mike Freer – amendment in the name of**

**Councillor Linda McFadyen:**

“Amend to read:

“Council is opposed to the further reduction to the Barnet Primary Care Trust (PCT) budget to £13million this year.

Council notes the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Clinical Strategy Project Board's long-list of 10 scenarios for the future of health services for Barnet residents.

Council is opposed to removal of planned surgery from Barnet Hospital under option four.

Council is opposed to closure of emergency surgery at Barnet Hospital under option five.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write setting out our all-party, unanimous opposition to these plans to the Chief Executives of the London Strategic Health Authority and Barnet PCT; to the Chair of the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Clinical Strategy Project Board; and to the Secretary of State for Health and our three Members of Parliament.”

Councillor McFadyen has requested, in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule, Part 4, Section 1, 31.5 that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, it be voted upon at the Council meeting.

**(iv) Agenda Item 9.1: Administration Policy Item - amendment in the name of**

**Councillor Barry Rawlings:**

“Add at end:

“Council welcomes Councillor Offord's excellent proposal for positive discrimination to give council apprenticeships to Looked-After Children aged 16, rather than to appoint solely on merit. Council asks the Borough Solicitor to ensure the policy complies with employment law.

Council and Members as Corporate Parents have the political will to improve the life chances for all Looked-After Children. Council therefore asks the First Class Education and Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee to research and bring forward recommendations to a Cabinet meeting as to how the Council can improve education, training and employment outcomes for all children who are and have been Looked-After.””

Councillor Rawlings has requested, in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule, Part 4, Section 1, 31.5 that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, it be voted upon at the Council meeting.

**(v) Agenda Item 9.2: Opposition Policy Item – amendments in the names of Councillor Ansuya Sodha:**

“Add at end:

“Council requests that the Chief Executive write asking the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee to:

- review with the police, Barnet Council and Brent Council access to the Welsh Harp with a view to better securing the site,
- review the signs warning visitors not to swim, research why the current signs are being ignored and consider placing signs in languages other than English, and therefore
- bring forward recommendations to Barnet and Brent Councils to improve access security and signage.

Council asks the Cabinet to:

- honour the tripartite agreement between Brent Council, Barnet Council and British Waterways for the preservation of the Welsh Harp, and
- assist the police in tracking down and prosecuting the organisers of the raves.

Council asks the Cleaner, Greener, Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee to:

- consult the Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee and West Hendon residents’ groups on whether patrols by council officers are required in the Welsh Harp, and review how Brent Council patrols the Welsh Harp,
- consider how Barnet’s out-of-hours service may be improved to better respond to the needs of residents including a commitment that the service will contact the police in connection with Welsh Harp problems in future, and therefore
- bring forward recommendations to Cabinet on how the Council can better tackle anti-social behaviour in the Welsh Harp.””

Councillor Sodha has requested, in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule, Part 4, Section 1, 31.5 that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, it be voted upon at the Council meeting.

**Councillor Brian Coleman**

“Amend the Policy Item so that it reads:

## **“A Cleaner, Greener and Safer Welsh Harp**

The Welsh Harp (Brent Reservoir) is a regional wetland open space designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Site of Metropolitan Importance and a Local Nature Reserve because of its major conservation status as a wintering and nesting site for wildfowl.

The reservoir is owned by British Waterways. The land habitats around the reservoir, shared between Barnet and Brent Councils, support a wide variety of species and are enjoyed by many residents. The site is scientifically important because of the high numbers of birds - including one of the largest breeding colonies of Great Crested Grebes in the country – and the diversity of its wetland and marginal plants.

Council is extremely pleased at the work being done by LBB to tackle anti-social behaviour, and improve safety, at the Welsh Harp.

This includes:

- New Byelaws for the Welsh Harp (to be cleared by Hendon Area Environment Sub), which can be enforced by the Police.
- “No Swimming” signs to be supplemented with logos for those for whom English is not a first language.
- Constant Cleansing to remove litter and detritus from the site.

In addition, Council congratulates Barnet Officers for their prompt action in relation to the planned rave on 5 August 2006, and obtaining the injunction to stop it.

Council proudly notes that noise enforcement officers in both Boroughs enforced the injunction, and that parking enforcement officers were also briefed to control nuisance parking.

Council further welcomes a meeting, set to take place this month, between Barnet and Brent Council Departments, to deter raves from taking place in the area, and to investigate additional action that can be taken against them.

Council calls on Cabinet to ensure this excellent work that is driving the anti-social element out of the Welsh Harp, continues, and thereby ensures that the peace, tranquillity and attractiveness of the Welsh Harp is both preserved and enhanced for law-abiding residents.

Council further urges the Cabinet Member for Community Safety to continue to make strenuous efforts to persuade the Police to take action as much of the anti-social behaviour can only be dealt with by them.”

- (vi) **Agenda Item 13.1.1: Report of the Acting Democratic Services Manager: Amendment to Leader’s Scheme of Delegation: (i) Cabinet ICT Committee – Withdrawal of Delegation. (ii) Cabinet Equalities and Social Inclusion Committee – Withdrawal of Delegation – amendment in the name of**

**Councillor Ansuya Sodha:**

“Amend recommendations to read:

“That equalities and social inclusion are integral to everything the Council and all Members do including service provision, and are not only integral to the Cabinet or human resources. That withdrawing the scheme of delegation for the Cabinet Equalities and Social Inclusion Committee would exclude Members, in particular black and minority ethnic Members, of all three political groups who have experience and knowledge to assist the Council in making progress with equalities and social inclusion. That the Leader of the Council be asked to re-consider his proposed withdrawal of the scheme of delegation for the Cabinet Equalities and Social Inclusion Committee.

That the Acting Democratic Services Manager be instructed to make the appropriate changes to the Council’s Constitution with regard to the Cabinet ICT Committee withdrawal of delegation and revised scheme of delegation for the Cabinet Resources Committee.””

Councillor Sodha has requested, in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule, Part 4, Section 1, 31.5 that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, it be voted upon at the Council meeting.

## **9. Representation of the Council on Outside Bodies**

Appendix D lists in bold the vacancies in the Council’s representation on Outside Bodies.

The Group Secretaries have been advised of the vacancies.

**RECOMMEND: That the Council make appointments to fill the vacancies reported.**

Janet Rawlings  
Acting Democratic Services Manager

## REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MANAGER

### Overview and Scrutiny Committees - Programme of Work for 2006/2007

The Constitution of the Council states that Overview and Scrutiny Committees/Sub-Committees will be responsible for setting their own forward work programme and in doing so should take into account wishes of Members on that committee who are not members of the political group or groups forming the administration. It is a requirement of the Constitution that these work programmes be submitted to the Council for approval.

Detailed in this report are the suggested work programmes for 2006/07 for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. This does not include the Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee which deals with call-in procedures.

#### 1. Summary

The Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees' forward Work Programmes detail areas for investigation during 2006/07 municipal year, as agreed by Members of the Council's five Overview & Scrutiny Committees (excluding Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

#### 2. Relevant Previous Decisions

The Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees met during June and July 2006 to discuss and agree forward work programmes for 2006/07.

#### 3. Policy Considerations

Publication of a forward work programme for each Overview & Scrutiny Committee takes account of the requirement for the scrutiny function to programme reviews which address issues arising from the Council's delivery of services, service improvement, best value, policy review and formulation, budget development and review of performance management throughout the Council. Overview and Scrutiny Committees may also facilitate community engagement and the 'community champion' role through the delivery of those reviews identified in their respective forward work programmes.

The forward work programme must also allow for any urgent or significant scrutiny reviews and investigations, which may arise at any point throughout the year, to be considered. The forward work programmes must also pre-plan and allow for the review of some external organisations and Council partners.

Each Overview & Scrutiny Committee may also review and scrutinise the Council's Corporate Plan, Sustainable Community Strategy and relevant Key Priority Plans' (KPP's) and wider performance information relevant to the committee's terms of reference and responsibilities.

#### **4. Background Information / Officers Comments**

The Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees met at the following times to identify their forward work programmes for the 2006/07 municipal year.

- Cleaner, Greener, Transport and Development (14 June 2006)
- First Class Education & Children (13 June 2006)
- Resources, Performance and Partnerships (5 June 2006)
- Supporting the Vulnerable in Our Community (5 June 2006)
- Tackling Crime and Housing (6 July 2006)

#### **5. Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes 2006/07**

The following work programmes have been identified by the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees for 2006/07:

##### **5.1 Cleaner, Greener, Transport and Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

To scrutinise and review:

1. Waste Management
2. Street Cleansing
3. Premier Parks
4. The Highways Network in Barnet and Transport for London (TfL)
5. The Performance of Utilities Companies in Barnet
6. Road Repair Programme
7. Street Trees Review
8. Controlled Parking Zones: Consultation Processes
9. Performance indicators for the services covered by this committee
10. Key Performance Plan/s (KPP) and Draft Budget 2007/08

##### **5.2 First Class Education & Children Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

To scrutinise and review five key headings as detailed in the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) relative to education and children:

1. School Security
2. Looked After Children – Transition to Adulthood
3. Building Schools for the Future – Capital Investment Programme
4. Science in Barnet's Schools
5. Listening to children and young people & Hear by Right
6. Performance Management
7. 14-19 Action Plan
8. Statutory Social Services Complaints
9. Dedicated School Ofsted meetings
10. Visits to Barnet's Children's Homes



## 11. Key Performance Plan/s(KPP's) and Draft Budget 2007/08

### **5.3 Resources, Performance and Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

To scrutinise and review:

1. Progressing the E-Government Strategy
2. Customer Care and Access Arrangements
3. Developing Shared Services
4. Delivery of Public Consultation
5. Gershon Efficiencies by Service Areas
6. Review of Corporate strategies e.g. Local Area Agreements
7. Corporate Performance Indicators and related measures of performance
8. Key Performance Plan/s(KPP's) and Draft Budget 2007/08

### **5.4 Supporting the Vulnerable in Our Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

To scrutinise and review:

1. Determinants of Health in the Borough of Barnet
2. Health Impact Assessment
3. Access to General Practitioners and Management of GP Lists
4. Post Office Closures and Alternative Provision of Services
5. Commissioning Strategy for Homecare Services (incorporating financial and payment arrangements; client referral and assessment arrangements)
6. Corporate Performance Indicators
7. The National Health Service Annual Health Check Process
8. Key Performance Plan/s(KPP's) and Draft Budget 2007/08

### **5.5 Tackling Crime and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

To scrutinise and review:

1. The Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and links to young people's issues
2. Hate Crime
3. Safer Community Strategy and Priorities (with particular regard to community safety issues relating to housing estates, parks and residential areas)
4. Safer Neighbourhoods priorities and partnership arrangements with the Police
5. Outcomes Arising from the Housing Needs Strategy
6. Annual Review of Housing Complaints
7. Updates on Housing Regeneration Schemes (incorporating monitoring of the affordable homes strategy)
8. Housing Association Performance Review 2005/06 (incorporating follow up for those Registered Social Landlords attending the committee in February 2006)
9. Levels of temporary accommodation on regenerated housing estates
10. Corporate Performance Indicators
11. Key Performance Plan/s(KPP's) and Draft Budget 2007/08

**RECOMMEND** - That the proposed forward work programmes for 2006/07 identified by the council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees, with the exception of the Cabinet Overview & Scrutiny Committee, be approved.

## 1. Overview and Scrutiny Committees 2005/06: Annual Report

### Introduction

- 1.1 The underlying purpose of the overview scrutiny function is to contribute to the improvement of services for Barnet's residents through the mechanisms of holding the Executive to account, assisting with policy development, engaging with local communities and addressing performance management issues (both internally and with Council partners). This work is guided by the Council's overall corporate priorities and by the targets and objectives to which each service is working.
- 1.2 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for setting its own work programme, taking account of the views of all its Members, key partners and community and voluntary groups. The forward work programmes are subject to approval of the Council. Scrutiny Committees may conduct research, question Directors, Heads of Service and Cabinet members, take evidence from whatever source/s they may choose and put forward recommendations for the Executive to consider. These may take the form of discussions at the meeting, a written request to a Cabinet member or a formal report based on the findings from a scrutiny review/inquiry. Recommendations may be forwarded for consideration by either the Executive or the full Council (depending on which body is responsible for the function in question).

### **Themes for the Year: 2005/06**

- 1.3 During the 2005/06 municipal year, Overview and Scrutiny Committees used their 'challenge' role to contribute to service improvement and policy development across a number of areas. Examples include:

#### **Support for Vulnerable Tenants (Tackling Crime and Housing O&SC)**

The suggestion for conducting this review arose from the Committee's earlier consideration of anti-social behaviour and instances of problems brought to Members' surgeries, etc. In particular, Members referred to the perceived lack of adequate support and supervision for some tenants (for instance those recently discharged from psychiatric hospital into general needs housing) and the consequent risk for those individuals and local neighbourhoods.

The review covered two main areas: Supporting People commissioning and Supporting People operations. Evidence was taken from the Head and also a member of the Supporting People Board; the Supporting People Manager (Community Care Service), Barnet Homes; Metropolitan Housing Trust and Notting Hill Housing Trust and Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust.

Through the course of the review, the Committee considered issues regarding Supporting People (National Requirements); Supporting People provision in Barnet; the role of the Housing Service; the Role of Barnet

Homes; the role of other providers; the role of the Mental Health Services; commissioning issues and the Audit Commission's Good Practice Models.

Recommendations to Cabinet arising from the review included addressing the provision of a database of vulnerable tenants, consideration to giving better publicity to the housing support services available to vulnerable tenants of all forms of social housing, liaison arrangements at both strategic and operational levels between the Housing Service, Barnet Homes, other Supporting People providers and the mental health services and the further development of consultation mechanisms with service users, carers and relatives to assess the quality and outcomes of the housing support services provided and to involve them in decisions about future priorities.

The recommendations submitted from the Tackling Crime and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet were agreed.

### **Appointment of Local Authority School Governors (First Class Education & Children Overview & Scrutiny Committee)**

At the Council meeting on 14 December 2004, it was resolved that the former Education and Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee *should investigate and if considered necessary recommend ways in which the Council could modernise how it makes appointments to School Governing Bodies.*

The First Class Education and Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee therefore reviewed the appointments process from September 2005 to February 2006. During the course of the review, Committee considered the risk issues involved in Governor recruitment, primarily in relation to ensuring that those appointed were eligible to serve as governors and that each candidate was committed to serving the School and the Governing Body. The legal procedures adopted for the appointment and removal of LEA Governors were also considered. A number of Local Authority school governor appointment models in place nationally were also referred to by the Committee.

At the conclusion of the review, Committee agreed to put forward recommendations to Council stating that the criteria for the appointment and removal of LEA Governors be set out in a transparent way; that in the first instance, nominations from Political Parties be invited for consideration by the Council; that if vacancies were not filled in three months, that the field of candidates be widened to incorporate applications from members of the local community, local groups and Council employees. Any vacancies which have been in existence for three months or more at the time of adoption be immediately open to nominations from the wider community; that applications from the wider community were put forward by Governor Services according to the appointment criteria and that in 12 months time, a review of school governor vacancies be undertaken by the First Class Education and Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The recommendations submitted from the First Class Education & Children Overview & Scrutiny Committee to Council were agreed.

- 1.4 Each Overview and Scrutiny Committee conducted their annual review of the draft Key Priority Plans (KPP's) for those Council services within their scrutiny remit. Comments arising from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees' review of the draft KPP's and draft Budget for 2005/06 were passed to Cabinet for consideration before the KPP's and annual Budget were finally recommended to full Council.
- 1.5 Highlights of the work undertaken by each Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the 2005/06 municipal year are attached at Appendix 1.

## Overview and Scrutiny Committees 2005/06: Annual Activity Report

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<b>Cleaner, Greener, Transport and Development Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>		
Parking	A review of the charges introduced by the Council and the controlled Parking Zones. An informal Member working group was established to take the review forward. The Committee convened a dedicated parking meeting with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, and with representatives from the Finchley Society, Disability Action in Barnet, New Barnet Community Association, Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association and Barnet Chamber of Commerce to discuss parking issues, specifically CPZ's, in the borough.	The Committee addressed a wide range of parking issues including accessibility arrangements for disabled people, free parking, grace periods, enforcement issues, signage, appeals evidence, visitors' vouchers, and parking permit pricing. The Committee agreed to continue its review of strategic parking issues into 2006.
Building Control Service	Committee reviewed the Building Control overspend incurred in 2004/05. The Head of Highways and Design addressed the committee. His report had explained the reasons why the Building Control Service had had a budget overspend in 2004/05	Remedial action had been taken during the year to address the overspend, and the 2005/06 year's budget was within target. It was also important to note that over the three-year timeframe over which the service was statutorily required to break even, the Building Control Service would do so and would not be in deficit. Committee noted the report.
Section 106 Agreements	The review was phased in three stages. The first stage involved gathering information which would identify the Section 106 processes in Barnet. The second stage involved the	At the conclusion of the review, Committee submitted the following recommendations to Cabinet (which were agreed):

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
	<p>consideration of whether any developments relating to Section 106 processes had taken place in Barnet. As well as researching these two areas, the committee also had an opportunity to put forward questions to officers at the committee meeting in February 2006. The final stage involved a comparison to other boroughs and the future of Section 106 in Barnet.</p>	<p>(1) That every six months, the Head of Planning reported to the Cabinet Resources Committee on the value of monetary and in-kind contributions received during the previous period from existing and new Section 106 agreements by the Council.</p> <p>(2) That annually, the Head of Planning reported to the Cabinet Resources Committee on the value of monetary and in-kind contributions received during the previous year from existing and new Section 106 agreements, on a service-by-service basis.</p>
<p>The Performance of Utility Companies Operating in Barnet</p>	<p>Key issues were discussed. It was reported that there had been a steady improvement in the performance of utility companies in Barnet although problems with some companies continued to exist, particularly in relation to emergency work. The statutory undertaker's responsibility was an issue as they were going through a transition period; a large number of maintenance work was taking place, therefore the location of the work was important in terms of safety and roads in the area where diversions or even road closures were required. The Chief Highways Officer informed the members that this was vital and that the work with the utilities companies regarding the planning of the maintenance work was much better and progress was being made; committee were also informed that regular meetings between the highways service and the utilities companies were taking place and there was more engagement between the two; it was recognised that there were still some issues regarding signage and tidiness of sites.</p>	<p>Following the success of the previous meeting with the utilities companies in 2005, the members of the committee were in agreement that another meeting should take place in 2006.</p>
<p>Air Quality Monitoring</p>	<p>The Group Manager for Scientific Services gave a presentation on air quality monitoring, and Committee put questions about the subject. When asked what was likely to be the most useful of the measures planned to improve air quality, it was thought</p>	<p>Members received confirmation that there were two air quality monitoring stations in the borough which were sufficient to gather the necessary data on Barnet's air quality which were then passed on to the London Air Quality</p>

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
	<p>the London Low Emissions Zone (LEZ) would be the most effective overall since measures would be London-wide - for example, replacing goods vehicle engines with Euro 3 or Euro 4 engines could reduce particulate emission by as much as 10 per cent;</p>	<p>Monitoring Service for analysis.</p> <p>A member asked what happened to the 4.4 per cent of the 500 vehicles per annum that were spot checked for emissions in the borough and failed to meet emissions standards. If a vehicle failed a spot check, the owner had 28 days to correct the problem and gain accreditation by being retested as part of the MOT. There was also a fine of £30 – it was relatively small, as the vehicle owner would have to also pay for the improvements to the vehicle's engine, and the purpose of the system was to improve the engine emissions and fix the problem rather than punish the owner of the vehicle.</p>
<p>Highways Works Procurement Strategy</p>	<p>At the meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> December 2005, Committee was informed that the report to the Cabinet Resources Committee in November 2005 proposed a service procurement strategy for highways works based on a comprehensive review during the summer of 2005 which examined the current highways services procurement situation and a business review of the Direct Services Organisation (DSO). It was further reported that the procurement programme would include a decision on contract format, document preparation, tenderer selection and tender bid evaluation.</p> <p>The scope and specification of the new contracts to operate from April 2007 was brought before Committee at the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> June 2006.</p>	<p>The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee were invited to attend an Open Forum meeting scheduled to be held in June 2006. This meeting, to be organised through the Local Strategic Partnership Groups, will seek the views of residents and users of the services currently being provided, how these services can be enhanced and to invite comments and views on the proposed way forward.</p>
<p>Draft Key Priority Plans and Draft Budget Headlines</p>	<p>Committee scrutinised the draft budget 2005/06 and the draft Key Priority Plans for the services covered by the committee. The Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Transport and relevant Heads of Service were in attendance.</p>	<p>The report was noted.</p>

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
Weed Control Service	Committee considered the arrangements for the weed control service and performance monitoring measures in place to judge the contractors performance.	<p>The contract with the provider of the weed control service had been extended to the end of 2006. The contractor's performance had been judged as good, and Barnet Homes had begun to use the same company for its weed control activities.</p> <p>One of the areas of progress during the last three years had been better monitoring of contract performance to address the areas that had been weak previously; a sign of the more effective service was a steady decline in the complaints received by the council over spraying from 305 in 2003 to approximately 40 this year. The key to monitoring had been to maintain the planned schedule for the spraying of weeds throughout the year – broadly, the strategy was that weeds should be sprayed early in the spring before they took hold and grew tenaciously over summer months.</p>
Member's Items	A number of Member's items were raised and addressed by the Committee during the course of the municipal year. Subjects included trimming of hedgerows, graffiti removal, future highways maintenance arrangements, waste management Best Value Review 2005/06 and the Noise Nuisance Service.	



<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<b>First Class Education and Children Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>		
Annual Performance Assessment (APA)	The Director of Children's Services provided a detailed briefing to the Members of the Committee in respect of the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) inspection framework and of the actions undertaken by the authority to date in response to the requirements of the APA.	Members were informed that the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) replaced the Ofsted of the LEA and the inspection of the Children's Services and that the APA ratings are made on the local authority's social care, education and children's services for children and young people and the authority's capacity to improve. It was reported that a self assessment and data collection had taken place in May 2005 and that the Ofsted findings would be published in November 2005. Members were also informed that a number of achievements and some issues were evident as a result of the assessment.
Annual Performance Assessment: OFSTED Findings	The Director of Children's Service briefed the Members on the Ofsted findings. The Ofsted findings were based on the five Every Child Matters outcomes – being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well-being. It was reported that the overall Ofsted judgement was 3 (good/promising) and that the children social care service was judged as 2 (a service that delivers only minimum requirements for users). The committee were further informed that the issues identified in these findings were included in the Children and Young People's Plan.	One of the key issues identified was the health of looked after children and another challenge was achieving economic well-being. It was reported that work with partner agencies was taking place to ensure that young people are provided with a much broader experience.
Appointment of School Governors	Following a request made at a meeting of the Council, the Committee investigated ways in which the Council could modernise how it makes appointments to LEA School Governing Bodies. The Committee considered models employed in local authorities nationally during the course of the review.	At the conclusion of the review, the following recommendations were submitted to Council from the Committee, which were agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ That the criteria for the appointment and removal of school governors are set out in a transparent way;</li> <li>▪ That in the first instance, nominations from Political Parties be invited for consideration by the Council.</li> <li>▪ That if vacancies are not filled in three months, that</li> </ul>

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
		<p>the field of candidates be widened to incorporate applications from members of the local community, local groups and Council employees. Any vacancies which have been in existence for three months or more at the time of adoption be immediately open to nominations from the wider community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ That applications from the wider community are put forward by Governor Services according to the appointment criteria.</li> <li>▪ That further information on enhanced Criminal Record Bureau checks will be considered at the committee meeting in May 2006.</li> <li>▪ That in 12 months time, a review of school governor vacancies is carried out by the First Class Education and Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee.</li> </ul>
OFSTED Inspection Framework	<p>The committee agreed that they would like to see schools of all abilities attend, providing schools with the opportunity to discuss their future. Furthermore, the committee wanted to continue in scrutinising the Council's role and how each school is supported and how value has/can be added to the school. Where schools have been given a 'notice to improve', it was agreed that they would be granted 6 months before they are invited to attend a dedicated Ofsted meeting. It was further agreed that the Committee and the LEA would agree to the schools to be invited. It was requested that where further action was necessary, that the outcomes of these be reported back to the committee.</p>	<p>Committee agreed that schools be invited to attend the dedicated Ofsted meeting within 6 months of the publication of its Ofsted report, that a representative sample of schools is invited to attend the dedicated Ofsted meeting, that the Deputy Chief Education Officer provides regular summary of Ofsted judgements for those schools not invited to attend and that where further action is necessary, the outcomes of these be reported back to the committee.</p>
School OFSTED Reports	<p>The Committee held a number of meetings dedicated to school OFSTED reports. Headteachers and School governors for those schools invited attended the meetings. The following schools attended the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Menorah Foundation School</li> <li>▪ Sunnyfields Primary School</li> <li>▪ Cromer Road Primary School,</li> </ul>	<p>Committee agreed to continue to convene formal meetings dedicated to the review of school Ofsted reports, to which Headteachers and school governors would be invited to attend and address Members of the Committee concerning matters arising from the Ofsted inspection process.</p>

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Finchley Catholic High School,</li> <li>▪ Queenswell Infant School and Sacred Heart Roman Catholic School</li> </ul>	
The Education of Looked After Children	<p>Committee received a presentation highlighting how the service was working to enhance the educational outcomes of the Looked After Children in Barnet. Members were informed that there was a new Corporate Parenting Team, that the service was working towards meeting its target to ensure that from the age of three each child has a Personal Education Plan, that steps were being taken to improve the educational outcomes of Looked After Children. It was further reported that the function of the Education Champions was to be a 'pushy parent' and to monitor the progress of the child's education. This included assessing the child's potential, to establish what additional provision may be needed and to remove any blockages without actually meeting the child. This proved to have had a very successful outcome in the examination results in 2005 where 20% of the Looked After Children achieved 5 A*-C grades at GCSE. Members were informed that this has been rolled out again, which now include Year 5 and Year 9 students as well as Year 11 students and the 8 care leavers in their first year at university.</p>	<p>Committee agreed that as a Corporate Parent, visits undertaken by Members of the Committee to children's homes would resume in January 2006 and continue thereafter.</p>
Children and Young People Plan	<p>The Director of Children's Services introduced the report and informed the Members that the Children and Young People Plan was developed through consultation with partners, staff, the voluntary sector, children, young people and their families and was built around the five Every Child Matters outcomes- being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well-being.</p>	<p>Being Healthy: Equipping children, young people and their families to make good health choices was a priority in addition to responding effectively to children and young people experiencing mental health difficulties. Improving services for children and young people with disabilities/complex needs and reducing hospital admissions and attendance was also reported to be a priority. Staying safe: This area was a key priority which involved moving from protection to safeguarding children, reducing the number of looked after children, improving local placement choice stability, improving assessment and case management as well as reducing the number of children and young people who are victims of crime and bullying. Enjoy and achieve: Key challenges and priorities included</p>

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
		<p>providing good quality integrated early years childcare and education, using school evaluation to drive improvement, raising achievement by promoting improvement and innovation in the curriculum and how it is taught, improving educational outcomes for children whose achievement is at risk. Making a positive contribution: The Children and Young People Plan involved improving opportunities for children, young people and their parents/carers to be active citizens and to be involved in service provision, supporting vulnerable young people through changes and challenges and reducing crime and anti-social behaviour perpetrated by young people. Economic well-being: The key actions to be taken involved the implementation of the 14-19 strategy, developing a wider accreditation for vulnerable young people to achieve and working with the Local Strategic Partnership to offer employment/placement opportunities for young people with 'NEET' risk factors (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training).</p>
<p>Draft Key Priority Plans and Draft Budget Headlines</p>	<p>Committee scrutinised the draft budget 2005/06 and the draft Key Priority Plans for services covered by the committee. The Cabinet Member for Education and Cabinet Member for Children attended the Committee to provide further information and clarification in response to questions arising.</p>	<p>The report was noted.</p>
<p>Member's visits to the children's homes</p>	<p>Members of the Committee undertook a number of visits to Children's Homes in the borough.</p>	<p>Outcomes arising from each Member's visit were reported back to the First Class Education and Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further discussion and continued monitoring.</p>

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<b>Resources, Performance and Partnerships Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>		
Budget Consultation – Report of the Leader of the Council (September 2005)	The Leader advised Committee that he was continuing the tradition of discussing the council’s planned budget consultation with this committee. Since the cost of a full mail out of the budget questionnaire to all households had become increasingly expensive, and had reached £70,000 in 2004, it had been decided not to continue with this aspect of the consultation. When the questionnaire had been issued each year, it had been always before the national grant settlement from central government had been known and so full information had not been included in the questionnaire preamble and it had thus been limited. All other communication activities around the planned budget would continue. Members of the Committee put questions to the Leader concerning resident’s interest in service delivery issues, levels of consultation in less affluent areas of the borough and the rate of return to the budget questionnaire.	Committee agreed to re-visit the outcomes of the budget consultation process at a later date in the municipal year.
Results of the Consultation on the 2006/07 Budget (February 2006)	The Leader reported that there had been no need for a full budget consultation questionnaire since most residents were primarily interested in the level of their council tax, and such information could never be consulted upon with certainty, since the council’s grant settlement from central government was always received after the period where consultation could take place. Committee questioned whether this should preclude widespread consultation and were of the opinion that there must be a way of putting realistic options to members of the public before the final government grant figures were known. For	Committee noted the Leaders responses to its questions concerning the budget setting and budget consultation processes.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
	<p>example, Committee put forward the option of using the amenity societies and the very active stakeholder community in Barnet to get real engagement with the public. Members of the Committee also queried using market researchers for face-to-face questioning on budget issues which could be confusing and asked the Leader how the Council could ‘think outside the box’ on consultation. The Leader advised Committee that the Corporate Consultation Unit was active in this area of work, which was amongst its primary responsibilities.</p>	
<p>Gershon Agenda &amp; Efficiency Savings: Housing Services</p>	<p>The Cabinet Member for Community Services and Head of Housing attended the meeting. Members were informed that the corporate monitor of Gershon savings placed before the committee only partly told the story of efficiencies in the Housing Service. The net Housing Service budget was only about £5.3 million, as the large gross expenditure on housing accommodation and housing benefit was claimed back in grants from central government. Over the previous three years the service had saved approximately £1.7 million, even though the largest part of its budget, housing accommodation, had seen an increase in housing claims of some 43 per cent - the number actually requiring to be housed had fallen some 10 per cent and acceptances had been reduced. The gross spend on temporary accommodation was £10 million but most of this was returned by the government so the net budget was about £1 million.</p>	<p>Although 5,000 people per annum approached the Housing Service, only some 700 were actually housed each year as solutions to their other problems were found. The most common causes of potential homelessness were family-related evictions; then the loss of people’s existing short-term tenancies; and thirdly domestic violence.</p> <p>That Committee sought further information from the Head of Housing regarding statistics on the aggregate savings made to the service’s budget in the previous three years; the causes and numbers of homelessness in Barnet; and the trends in the number of people advised by the Housing Service.</p>
<p>Gershon Agenda and Efficiencies: Corporate Services</p>	<p>Members questioned how did the authority measure that any savings put forward did not impact upon service delivery. They were advised that guidance was in place as part of the Gershon process to ensure this did not happen. Furthermore, many of the performance indicators monitored by the council were designed to measure service provision to ensure that efficiencies did not materially impact on the availability of services to residents; and performance indicators were also</p>	<p>Committee agreed to continue to monitor and follow up a number of areas specific to the Gershon agenda across services reporting to it throughout the year</p>

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
	<p>subject to auditing.</p> <p>Committee was informed that achieving the identified savings in the Resources Directorate relating to the human resources function had been challenging. Committee raised corporate efficiencies relating to the deletion of posts from the Internal Audit Unit and Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT). Members learnt that it was intended to establish responsibilities for strategic risk management within the Resources Directorate and to clarify the remit of the Internal Audit Unit to focus on delivering the annual audit plan.</p>	
<p>Service Performance Indicators &amp; LPSA Monitoring</p>	<p>The Committee undertook scrutiny of Corporate Performance Indicators (for the Corporate Performance Office, Resources Directorate and Law and Probity Service) and Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) monitoring throughout the course of the municipal year.</p>	<p>Committee monitored and followed up a number of areas specific to the three services throughout the year.</p>
<p>Modernising Core Systems Project</p>	<p>The Director for the Modernising Core Systems Project and project team attended the meeting. He noted that implementation of the system had been successfully negotiated. Further challenges existed to 'bed down' the new processes, and in educating users.</p>	<p>Members further discussed in detail issues pertaining to 'cultural change' associated with the introduction and implementation of MCS and payroll arrangements.</p>

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<b>Supporting the Vulnerable Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>		
Reducing Tobacco Consumption in Barnet	In partnership with Barnet Primary Care Trust, the Committee addressed the potential role that the Council could play to support the PCT in the area of smoking cessation within the borough. The Committee concluded that there should be greater Barnet Council involvement in smoking cessation and tobacco control initiatives – particularly through the schools programme and in leisure centres and advocated a multi-agency partnership approach to no smoking day and other public initiatives in the borough (e.g. fairs, fetes and carnivals). The Committee also wished to see greater encouragement to retailers in preventing the sales of tobacco products to the under 16s, following up with prosecutions and recommended efforts to persuade retailers to participate and assume some sense of ownership.	The Committee submitted a number of recommendations to Cabinet detailing a number of initiatives and actions open to the Council to support smoking cessation activities. Issues addressed included NHS Stop Smoking Services, Council smoking cessation initiatives to support Barnet Council Staff, combating tobacco sales to under 16's and tobacco smuggling, encouraging smoke free environments and approaches to tobacco advertising.  Cabinet agreed the recommendations arising from the Committee's review of Reducing Tobacco Consumption in Barnet.
Edgware Community Hospital Walk In Centre: Access to Out of Hours Services	The Chief Executive of Barnet Primary Care Trust (BPCT) attended the Committee to answer questions arising from this item. A Member of the Committee noted that proposals for Edgware Community Hospital Walk in Centre (WIC) had been learned of through the local press. Members also raised questions around related issues of access to health services, who would be consulted in respect of any proposals for the Walk in Centre; how would stakeholders be consulted; the intended timescales and duration for the consultation and what alternative healthcare provision would be offered to patients after 11:00pm. The Chief Executive (BPCT) informed the Committee that the W-I-C treated as many patients as would a medium sized Accident & Emergency Department. There were concerns around clinical safety at night. The Chief Executive informed Committee that the WIC was often supported by agency and locum staff during the evening hours. There were difficulties in securing appropriate agency/locum staff with the appropriate experience to	The proposals for the Out of Hours health services in West Barnet were monitored at a further two meetings of the Committee, at which the Chief Executive (Barnet Primary Care Trust) was present.



<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
	<p>supervise the WIC. The WIC at night did not have the same level of back up facilities compared to a full A&amp;E Centre; for example, there are no radiography facilities, as such a service could not be realistically provided for the numbers of people wishing to access it through the WIC. Greater diagnostics also operated during the day in comparison to the night.</p> <p>The Committee raised the issue of planned population growth within the Borough over the next fifteen years and noted that reducing accessibility to services could well prove to be extremely problematic. The Chief Executive (BPCT) advised Committee that any health plan for West Barnet would need to take account of the Borough's regeneration projects such as Stonegrove and the PCT and Council were working in partnership to address these issues.</p>	
<p>Changes to Cancer Services at the Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust</p>	<p>The Director of Nursing and Director of Operations from the Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust attended the Committee to answer questions arising from this item.</p> <p>Committee expressed concern at the lack of consultation preceding the proposals for provision of cancer services by the Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust. Given the history of past reconfigurations of services, particularly the amalgamation of the Barnet and Chase Farm sites. Members highlighted that accessing local health services was a significant issue for local people and that there was a need for adequate consultation to be undertaken concerning the changes to the provision of these services.</p> <p>Committee learnt that the Trust was developing a clinical strategy for the future. Discussions were to be held with the public and staff at the start of October 2005. It had been agreed with the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) to initiate a full consultation with residents in Barnet, Enfield and Hertfordshire. With regard to cancer services specifically, some of the proposed changes were designed to give the</p>	<p>The Committee agreed to continue to monitor the development and delivery of cancer services through the Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust.</p>

<b><u>Issue</u></b>	<b><u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u></b>	<b><u>Findings and Recommendations</u></b>
	Trust the means of meeting specific targets for the benefit of patients. Due to the tight timescales set for the meeting of national targets, the Trust had not been able to consult widely over the arrangements for urology and breast cancer services.	
Service Improvement/Cost Reductions at the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	The Chief Executive of the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust attended the Committee meeting to speak to this item. Mr Way briefed the Committee as to the circumstances leading to the cost reduction and service reconfiguration proposals, which the Royal Free NHS Trust consulted upon during August 2005. The main issues for the Trust were identified as issues around the 'patient's journey' and the management of the duration of the patient's stay in hospital. The Trust therefore had reviewed how the services it provided could be re-organised to increase internal efficiencies and had identified a number of areas and options, these included: the rationalisation of beds; and 2) the Review of admissions and waiting list procedures, so that patients could be admitted, diagnosed and clinical decisions given regarding treatment within the same day.	Following the meeting, Committee wrote to the Chief Executive of the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust detailing the Committee's concerns arising from the Trust's Service proposals. Furthermore, the Committee also continued to monitor the reconfigured service arrangements at a further two meetings of the Committee, which were also attended by management representatives from the Trust.
Assessment for Improvement: the NHS Annual Health Check	<p>Committee considered new NHS performance assessment framework, the 'Annual Health Check', for those primary care and acute hospital trusts serving Barnet's residents. Members considered the baseline target/performance figures detailed within the Annual Health Check declarations for Barnet Primary Care Trust; Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust; Barnet and Chase Farm Hospital Trust and the Royal Free Hospital Trust.</p> <p>Representatives from all four trusts attended the Committee to present their respective Annual Health Check declarations and to answer Member's questions arising.</p>	The Committee agreed to continue to monitor specific areas of performance within each of the Trust's Annual Health Check declaration which Committee agreed required further improvement.
Infection Control and Prevention – Barnet General	The Director for Performance Improvement and Director of Nursing (Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust) attended Committee to discuss the preventative measures taken at Barnet General Hospital to address hospital infections. Members were informed that during 2004/05,	In response to questions raised by Members concerning infection control and management within the hospital, the Committee was informed that an Infection Control Team and Senior Manager had been assigned to undertake a fortnightly ward cleansing audit of every ward in Barnet

<b><u>Issue</u></b>	<b><u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u></b>	<b><u>Findings and Recommendations</u></b>
Hospital	<p>recorded bacterial rates had increased before additional investment had been directed towards infection control and preventative measures in Barnet General hospital. Internal and national programmes had been put in place to manage infection control and to oversee the implementation of preventative infection control measures. The hospital cleaning contract had been renewed and was closely monitored. The Trust was one of the first nationally to devolve responsibility for cleaning staff directly to Ward Sisters. The Trust was working with Patients Forums in addressing infection control and had also implemented a hospital ward pilot scheme for the cleansing of hands, which was monitored monthly. A 33% reduction in reported cases of MRSA and other infections had been reported following the introduction of these initiatives.</p> <p>Committee learned that a dedicated hospital pharmacist had also been put in place in order to monitor the dispensing and use of antibiotics, and to reduce the prevalence of antibiotic prescriptions throughout the Trust in order to address increasing MRSA resistance to such treatments</p>	<p>General hospital. The option of introducing housekeepers on wards was also under consideration, a practice already in place at the Chase Farm hospital site. A number of new infection control measures had been introduced in Barnet General hospital. Ward Sisters had been assigned greater responsibilities and provided with additional training to govern the cleaning inspection process on hospital wards. All areas on the wards were now subject to inspection. No prior notice of the ward inspections taking place was given to the Ward Sisters. All Matrons met regularly with cleaning contractors and any problem areas with ward cleaning were identified and reported quickly. Since the Healthcare Commissions audit, there had been very few instances of a ward failing the fortnightly cleansing inspection. In instances of a Sister being absent from work, supervision of and responsibility for cleaning on the affected ward passed to other Sisters.</p>
Barnet Psychiatric Unit (BPU): Reconfiguration of Day Services	<p>The Chief Executives for Barnet, Enfield &amp; Haringey Mental Health Trust and Barnet Primary Care Trust attended committee to discuss the reconfiguration of access arrangements to mental health Day Services, formally accessed through the Barnet Psychiatric Unit (BPU). The Chief Executive (Barnet, Enfield &amp; Haringey Mental Health Trust) advised Committee that the Trust had no alternative but to move the Day Service from the BPU to the Denis Scott Unit (DSU) due to high levels of sickness with permanent staff, an over reliance on temporary agency staff and having some vacant posts to which appointments could not be made owing to the lack of suitable candidates. The point had been reached whereby the balance had moved to an over reliance on agency staff to keep the service operating, which did lead to clinical safety concerns. The reliance on agency staff also brought associated financial pressures for the Trust to</p>	<p>Committee agreed to continue to review the provision of mental health day services in the borough and the position regarding the reopening of the BPU, which it did at a further two meetings of the formal committee. Representatives from the Mental Health Trust, Patient and Public Involvement Forums, Barnet Voice for Mental Health and users of the services also attended and gave evidence to the Committee at the further meetings.</p> <p>Committee wrote formally to the Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Trust formally detailing its concerns with the closure of the BPU</p> <p>The Chairman stated that the mental health trust should proactively involve and include users and carers in its planning of service provision and that the trust should</p>

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
	<p>manage.</p> <p>In response to Members questions, Committee was informed that that the capacity of the BPU was for 18 places were available to service users per session, twice daily for Day Care services providing 36 places per day. Sixteen services users had been discharged to on-going care plans elsewhere following the closure of the BPU, as provided by the Community Network and the Community Health Team.</p> <p>Plans were on-going to completely refurbish the BPU, which involved a significant scheme with a projected cost of fifteen million pounds. The Mental Health Trust was in the final stages of agreeing funding with the Primary Care Trust. If the final business case for the refurbishment was accepted by the Strategic Health Authority (SHA), refurbishment of the BPU would commence in the summer of 2006 and be completed by the end of 2007. However, the refurbishment plan for the BPU was dependent on approval for the business case by the Strategic Health Authority (SHA). In the event that the BPU refurbishment did not progress, the continued use of the Denis Scott Unit (DSU) to provide a Day Service for service users in the east of the borough was an option, although this was not part of the mental health trusts longer term vision for the delivery of mental health services in the borough of Barnet.</p>	<p>consider in detail how any cost reductions would affect vulnerable users of the trusts services.</p> <p>The Chairman sought an undertaking from the Chief Executive (Barnet, Enfield &amp; Haringey Mental Health Trust) that mental health service users and carers would be properly consulted in respect of their trusts service planning and budgetary arrangements, and that the requirement for the extension of mental health services in the borough was recognised. The Chairman expressed concern that any such expansion of mental health services in the borough was highly unlikely taking into account the trust's existing financial position.</p> <p>The Chief Executive (Barnet, Enfield &amp; Haringey Mental Health Trust) advised the Committee that no expansion of mental health services was planned for 2006/07. However, the mental health trust would ensure that any further proposals relating to the provision of mental health services in the borough would be discussed with staff of the trust, users of mental health services, carers and relevant formal bodies and partner organisations.</p>

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<b>Tackling Crime and Housing Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</b>		
Supporting People Strategy & Vulnerable Tenants	<p>In response to Member's questions, the Cabinet Member for Community Services advised Committee that a Core Strategy and Commissioning Board had been established to oversee the co-ordination and integration of the Supporting People strategy between the Social Care and Housing services. An assessment framework to identify user's needs had also been put in place as had a communication and consultation strategy in respect of communicating with service users. Social Services strategy groups were in the process of reviewing users' and carers' views regarding vulnerable tenants' needs. Detailed work had also commenced to assess the level of need of vulnerable tenants and to identify the corresponding level of resources required to fully support them.</p>	<p>With reference to the Supporting People Annual Plan 2005/06 Committee sought clarification as to what arrangements were in place to secure funding and resources to support and deliver the plan's objectives beyond 2005/06. Committee was informed that central Government was undertaking further consultation in respect of allocation of grant funding in 2006/07 and that a degree of priority had to be determined regarding the allocation of future resources to support vulnerable people in the borough.</p> <p>Committee sought clarification as to how the Supporting People strategy was helping to assist vulnerable people. Committee was informed that detailed monitoring of the strategy was in place internally, through Council partners and related support organisations. Monitoring meetings were held with the Mental Health Trust and Homelessness Service in respect of referrals of vulnerable people to hospital services and in relation to potential housing eviction and rent arrears cases. Feedback from users to date implied that they were satisfied with the service being provided for vulnerable people</p>
Housing Associations Performance Review 2004/05	<p>The Committee reviewed the annual performance for those Housing Associations on the Development Panel against the categories of: rent arrears; levels of rent on existing stock and new developments; rent increases; void management; repair response times and nominations offered to the Council. Tenant satisfaction surveys of the preferred Housing Association partners (including Barnet Homes) were also produced on a three yearly cycle by an independent survey company. Committee was further advised that the Social Housing</p>	<p>Metropolitan Housing Trust (MHT) reported on some of the latest performance figures which had been circulated to the committee. It was reported that MHT's approach was to adapt to changing markets and expectations, unlike a decade ago, people would not accept a "standard service" from RSLs, as the estates they worked with became mixed tenure, and new services such as sub-letting and private sector renting emerged. The immediate priorities for MHT were to improve the "doorstep services" such as caretaking,</p>

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	<p>Development Agreement was in place and had been signed by the seven Housing Associations. The Agreement was the basis for continued performance monitoring and was reviewed on an annual basis.</p> <p>Following review of the annual management performance report Committee invited representatives from MHT, PCHA and Stadium Housing Association to address the respective association's performance and review their corporate strategies to support future performance improvement.</p>	<p>repairs, lighting and tackling anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>SHA reported that since April 2005, the organisations traffic light monitor had moved from 'amber' to 'green', which showed improvement. SHA wanted to further improve beyond the routine Housing Corporation performance indicators applied to Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), especially on customer service issues e.g. resolution of repairs, answering the phone, the time to respond to inquiries etc. Areas of improvement had included complaints (there used to be complaints about complaints). The organisation had ISO accreditation, and had rolled out customer care features such as mystery shopping exercises, to monitor performance. One of its corporate priorities was a strategy of continuous improvement.</p> <p>Paddington Churches Housing Association (PCHA) reported that there had been a change of senior management since late 2004 and the organisation was focused on improving its performance. Customer satisfaction was a key driver for it, and it had set up measures such as a safer neighbourhood team, an anti-social behaviour team and a new 'contact centre' as a result of addressing previously-declining customer satisfaction. Survey work three years ago had showed residents thought anti-social behaviour a problem and so PCHA had set up the ASB team. This last initiative had been in planning for a year and had been undertaken in close consultation with tenants in a monthly meeting group. The contact centre had combined the four offices of PCHA together at Willesden Green since September 2005 and provided effectively a 'one stop' call centre type-approach for issues such as repairs. It now took 70% of such calls and its effect was that only 5% of calls were abandoned by the caller without being answered, for example.</p>

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Action Plan: Barnet Homes</p>	<p>The Housing Operations Manager (Barnet Homes) informed Committee that the ASB Action Plan provided an update on progress of implementing ASB measures over the last eighteen months.</p> <p>Committee was advised that the ASB legislation and measures employed to date did appear to make tenants and the wider community feel safer. It was reported that Barnet Homes tenant satisfaction rates were improving generally and that Independent market research was also to be undertaken to gain the views of the victims of ASB. Those tenants that had been subject to ASB were contacted on a fortnightly basis by Barnet Homes, in order to advise them of the progress of their cases and to offer on-going support and advice. Committee was informed that 19 Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's) had been secured as of January 2006.</p>	<p>Committee sought further detail as to how the objective of partnership working leading to a reduction in the time taken to investigate serious cases of ASB was being taken forward. Committee was advised that performance had improved over the past two years in meeting this objective. A solicitor had been placed in the Barnet Homes ASB team, based at Stag House, for three days per week, working closely with Housing Officers and the Community Safety team. It was reported that the arrangement had led to quicker assessments of ASB cases as well as leading to improving working arrangements with the ASB Co-Coordinator in relation to progressing Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's). Joint working and the adoption of joint strategies across partner organisations to address ASB was deemed to be essential for ASB initiatives to be effective.</p> <p>Committee agreed to continue to monitor the management and implementation of anti-social behaviour policy in the borough.</p>
<p>Draft Five Year Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010</p>	<p>The Supporting People Manager (SPM) informed Committee that the production of a local 5 year Supporting People strategy was a national requirement and the responsibility of the Supporting People commissioning body for each area in conjunction with the local authority. Supporting People strategies have links with many other local strategies concerned with housing, social care, health and community safety and there is a correspondingly broad range of interested agencies. The aim was to produce a clear and succinct 5 year Supporting People strategy for Barnet.</p> <p>The committee requested further information in relation to the part of the strategy headed 'Ensuring accessible and responsive health and social care services in all our communities', which</p>	<p>Committee requested further performance updates in respect of progress made in delivering those targets outlined in the 5 Year Supporting People Strategy, particularly with regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extra Care Sheltered Housing</li> <li>• Barnet's Learning Disability Modernisation programme.</li> <li>• The Care Programme Approach</li> <li>• Telecare</li> </ul> <p>In conjunction with the Supporting People Manager, Committee also agreed to visit a unit using the Telecare system when fully operational.</p>

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
	<p>addressed Barnet's programmes to reduce institutional living and dependence for the borough's most vulnerable residents through the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extra care sheltered housing, providing integrated support and care in purpose-built lifetime homes to help older people to stay independent for as long as possible.</li> <li>• Barnet's Learning Disability Modernisation programme, responding to resident's aspirations and choices by providing modern supported housing as an alternative to residential care.</li> <li>• Delivering high support step down housing for people in the Care Programme Approach, including homely Crisis House support to prevent hospital admission.</li> <li>• Providing Telecare and Task-based visiting support, helping to manage risks and build confidence for vulnerable older people who choose to stay in their own homes.</li> </ul> <p>The SPM advised Members that the first three measures represented extensive recommendations for the council's housing accommodation strategy. Two extra care housing schemes were in development which would provide 105 homes for vulnerable older people. The units were designed for people with high levels of need and were very resource intensive. The committee expressed concern that extra care sheltered housing provision may not meet all future demand for the facility.</p> <p>Telecare services also offered considerable potential to help older people to remain living safely in their own homes by providing monitoring systems to alert appropriate services to risk situations. There were proposals to expand Barnet's Lifeline Alarm service to include more sophisticated Telecare monitoring facilities.</p>	



<u>Issue</u>	<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Barnet Homes Draft Business Plan: 2006/07</p>	<p>Committee was advised by representatives of Barnet Homes that Barnet Homes was to be inspected in October 2007. The organisation was currently rated as 'good' or two stars, and its ambition was to be awarded three stars. Its main imperative was customer satisfaction and its most recent market research had shown a tenant satisfaction rating of 77% (1,600 tenants had been surveyed).</p>	<p>Members of the Committee questioned whether Barnet Homes had youth workers located on its estates and were advised that other than at the Grange estate, no. However, Barnet Homes was working up proposals to bid for external funding to bring in more youth provision, beginning with the Stonegrove Estate. It was possible to obtain external funding for youth provision; in the previous two years Barnet Homes had accessed £200K of such funding.</p> <p>In response to Members questions regarding prospective plans for a tenant resources centre, Committee was informed that there was a range of options available. One option was a stand alone centre; another option was a community development trust. There was already a community development trust in East Finchley and one at Grahame Park.</p> <p>Committee questioned what was considered the main factor if Barnet Homes were to achieve a three-star rating in its 2007 inspection. The areas of improved customer care and being organisational usage of its IT and resources were seen as key areas towards helping improve the overall star rating of the organisation.</p> <p>Committee questioned as to what had been done about tackling anti-social behaviour on estates and was advised that Barnet Homes had an <i>Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan</i>. There was also a dedicated anti-social behaviour team which had been working hard on improving tenant satisfaction on this issue. One innovation which had been recognised nationally was a follow-up survey of victims of anti-social behaviour in which an external, independent market research firm questioned victims about the service they had received after such incidents.</p> <p>Committee agreed to continue to monitor the implementation</p>

<b><u>Issue</u></b>	<b><u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u></b>	<b><u>Findings and Recommendations</u></b>
		and effectiveness of the Barnet Homes business plan throughout the 2006/07 municipal year.

## Register of Appointments and Nominations on Outside Bodies

**1. Organisation: Fostering Approvals Panel**

## Special Conditions:

(a) Term of office is for three years. If a representative resigns or does not complete their term of office, the person appointed to replace that representative will serve the unexpired term of office.

(b) Representatives must be Members of the Council, one appointed from each of the main political parties.

No. of Representatives: 2

Current Representatives		Vac Ref
<b>1 - Councillor Maureen Braun</b>	<b>(Resigned 15/05/2006)</b>	<b>1062</b>
<b>Period of Appointment:</b>	<b>26/11/2005 to 25/11/2008</b>	<b>Member</b>
2 - Councillor Anne Hutton	(Appointed 08/11/2005)	1063
Period of Appointment:	26/11/2005 to 25/11/2008	Member