Scrutiny
Annual Report 2008/09
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Introduction from the Scrutiny Chairs

Welcome to the Council’s fourth Annual Scrutiny report which details the work, achievements and progress of the Overview and Scrutiny function at Chesterfield over the past year. As before we have included some of our hopes and aspirations for the forthcoming year to continue to build on the good work being undertaken and to continue to strengthen our role in local governance through:

- ensuring accountability through challenge of decisions and actions;
- influencing policy development and delivery;
- challenge of providers of public services external to the Council;
- ensuring best quality and value through good performance and finance management.

Expectations on Scrutiny this year have shown how dynamic and adaptable Scrutiny needs to be, and more so in a local district council with limited capacity. We recognise that constant change and the need to achieve continual improvement in service delivery with fewer resources, the constant pressure of more for less, is a challenge to us all. New legal duties and other expectations have required us to focus on a number of different agendas and so it has been an intense year, but we continue to adapt as necessary to work more effectively.

These are changing times and you will see from this report that much of this year’s Scrutiny work has centred on the need to work with others to achieve our aims. We have worked closely with our partners, those who deliver other public services in and around Chesterfield, to help achieve the positive outcomes for our community that we need to achieve. Working with partners to deliver more effective and efficient services is far from a new idea but the need and expectations to build those links is stronger than ever before. Some of our work this year demonstrates the necessity to work with others to address issues which can not be resolved by any single institution acting alone - issues that are everyone’s responsibility. Therefore most sections in this report contain some reference to working with others, as many of our achievements and developments this year involved doing just that.

It has been a busy year but Scrutiny is proud to help lead the way for change in Chesterfield both within our own organisation and also with our partners and help promote and strengthen the role of the Council as community leader.

Our work can involve many people and so our thanks and gratitude go to all those who may be involved with and/or influenced by our Scrutiny work at any time. We do appreciate your understanding, co-operation, energy and patience, and look forward to working with you again to improve public services in Chesterfield.
**Comments from the Chief Executive**

I have always been a keen advocate of ‘scrutiny’. When well done, as I believe is the case at Chesterfield, it has the power to add ‘real’ value to policy development, partnership working, service performance, and decision-making.

With most of the Council’s decisions made by just a few members these days, it is important that others are able to offer their own insights, to challenge, to influence, to hold to account, and to suggest other ways of doing things. Through the training that has been provided and the experience that has been gained in recent years, our scrutiny members are now a formidable force. This was very evident in their review of the decision to procure a public/private partnership to run the Council’s corporate services. The ‘call-in’ meetings proved robust, challenging and constructive; and I am pleased that a Scrutiny Panel has since been established to track the project’s progress.

I was also delighted with the process and the outcomes of our partnership scrutiny activity with Bolsover and North East Derbyshire District Councils, and Derbyshire County Council. The subject of ‘alcohol and young people’ is at the top of most communities’ agendas, and the review work undertaken has rightly caused all 4 councils to re-think their approaches and to re-direct their collective resources.

The Efficiency and Best Value Scrutiny Panel has also continued to deliver high quality, ‘added value’ reports and improvement plans. The ‘Energy Efficiency’ review proved very innovative and productive; and I am looking forward to reading the outcome of the Panel’s review and in particular, their recommendations on how the Council should move forward with the new language and practice of ‘Value for Money’ Commissions.

The Scrutiny Board Work Programme for 2009/10 looks very interesting. Under the stewardship of the Chairs, Councillors Denise Hawksworth and Nicky Qazi, and the guidance of the Scrutiny Officer, Anita Cunningham, I have every confidence that the scrutiny members will again deliver, through their diligence and enthusiasm, quality outcomes that will support the Council, with its partners, to provide services that meet the needs and aspirations of local people and local communities.

September 2009
3 Scrutiny Board’s and Panels’ work and achievements

Partnership Scrutiny Review into Alcohol and Young People by Chesterfield, Bolsover, North East Derbyshire and Derbyshire County Councils

Councillor Keith Falconer - Review Panel Chair

Through the Chesterfield Scrutiny Board’s usual consultation on issues for the Scrutiny work programme public concerns were raised regarding issues of anti social behaviour. As a result it was agreed a review panel would look at the impact of alcohol on young people which was associated with crime and disorder in the town centre and across the borough. It was also agreed that the remit of the scrutiny work would include the impact of alcohol on the health of young people and the well being of the community generally.

In considering the remit it was agreed that we needed to work in partnership to address such a cross cutting problem to achieve results which would be of greater significance to all involved and affected. A partnership approach to the scrutiny work enabled the benefit of the involvement of a number of different public and voluntary sector service providers each having some responsibility or remit for tackling the issues subject of the review.

Our neighbouring Councils of Bolsover and North East Derbyshire, together with Derbyshire County Council were invited to form a Joint Scrutiny Review Panel to look into the issues. Other partners and key Derbyshire organisations also involved included, the Police, Primary Care Trust (NHS), Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), Trading Standards, Licensing Officers and a number of voluntary sector groups including Base III (Young Persons Drug and Alcohol Service), Links (Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Council for Voluntary Service and Action), Bolsover Community Voluntary Partners and South Normanton and Pinxton Development Project (SNAP).

This approach provided a forum for all the agencies to listen to the concerns and agree combined efforts and co-operation necessary to address the issues. The involvement of a wide range of partners covering a broader geographical area has produced a more strategic set of recommendations supported by those involved.

The aims of the review were to:

- Influence the reduction of alcohol related crime and anti social behaviour to improve wellbeing within the communities of Chesterfield, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire;
- Identify and reduce the impact of alcohol consumption by young people in our communities on their health, safety and wellbeing;
- Identify and influence measures to raise awareness of the impact of alcohol on young people in our communities;
- Influence, policies, strategies and legislation to improve community wellbeing.
The Scrutiny review concluded that there was a considerable amount of existing work already being undertaken by the partners to try and address alcohol misuse by young people and the effect that this was having in communities in terms of anti social behaviour, violence and crime, impact on individuals’ health, safety and life prospects. However it was agreed that this issue should be given higher priority by Councils and key partners. Greater strategic leadership and added priority at a strategic decision making level was needed to underpin and support a more effective, better co-ordinated joint effort across the areas to address this important community issue.

Achievements:

It became evident that this single scrutiny review would not address all the more detailed issues that had been highlighted for attention or include all relevant agencies. The report contained initial recommendations at this stage. On the basis of the evidence gathered, the Joint Scrutiny Panel made the following recommendations which have all been approved by the Councils :-

1. That the Leaders and Executives of all the partners work to strengthen and build on the delivery of the existing joint strategy to reduce the impact of alcohol on young people, to clarify and improve local and county links, roles and responsibilities thereby maximising the impact of their existing individual strategies.

2. For all partners to:
   - Identify their information requirements individually and collectively
   - Ascertain if that data is or could be available.
   - Develop a central database to provide a holistic view which is accessible to all partners.

3. To identify all the activities that are being undertaken to educate different groups by all the partners in order to assess the gaps and any areas that could be improved. Identify how those gaps can be addressed to ensure there is a consistent message.

To promote the delivery of education through the Derbyshire Governors Support Unit.

4. To enhance the partnerships that exists with the retailers and Licensing, Trading Standards, Police and other relevant stakeholders to:
   - Improve communications of the impact on the local community of inappropriate alcohol sales.
   - Improve understanding of the barriers that the retailers experience in adhering to the law.
   - Enable the retailers to achieve best practice.
   - To further develop the collective prioritisation of issues amongst partner agencies.

5. To investigate the feasibility of developing or enhancing a method for local people of all ages and employees of the partner organisations to report incidents relating to the supply of alcohol to young people.

6. To consider the development, through partner organisations including the Primary Care Trust, County Drug and Alcohol Action Team and voluntary sector, of a referral system for individuals:
   - once they are discharged from hospital following an alcohol related incident;
   - who have been identified by any of the partners as abusing alcohol.

This will facilitate the capture of intelligence and enable early intervention to break the cycle of behaviour.

7. For all partners to explore collectively any available funding opportunities (both internally and externally), in order to provide appropriate diversionary activities in targeted areas.

8. Review the priorities and resourcing within the licensing teams in order to provide a more effective service that is proactive in jointly addressing issues relating to alcohol and young people.

9. Increase Councillors’ awareness of the issues surrounding alcohol and young people and the relevance of this report to their ability to deliver corporate targets.
Chesterfield Scrutiny Panel Review into Alcohol and Young People

Councillor Keith Falconer -
Review Panel Chair

To compliment the work undertaken through the partnership work already detailed, the Chesterfield Scrutiny Review Panel continued its work to look at other powers and influences Chesterfield Borough Council had available to help address issues relating to young people’s use of alcohol. The wider aims of the review were the same as for the joint review already provided. The main objectives of this review were:

● to examine actions specific to, and within the power of, Chesterfield Borough Council that could be taken to help address the issues associated with alcohol and young people.
● to make appropriate recommendations to Cabinet, Licensing Committee, Council and elsewhere as appropriate.

Achievements:

The following recommendations were made to Cabinet and approved:

1. Cabinet agree the relevant Council’s Licensing Section be reviewed to emphasise alcohol related enforcement as a priority, with a view to considering achieving this by a proactive and rigorous enforcement policy.

2. Cabinet and Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership recommend the Safer Communities Board and Chesterfield Violence and Alcohol Licensing Group (VAL) appoint an independent representative of the Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership, ie the Partnership Manager, to take the Chair / lead of the Chesterfield VAL.

3. That Cabinet agree to write to Government in relation to the need for direct grant and to increase fees in respect of charges for licensing applications as detailed in the report of the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Elton Report referred to in this report.

4. The Council holds discussions with the Police, involving relevant Ward Members, to consider the introduction of further Alcohol Control Zones within the borough.

5. That the Scrutiny Board be consulted for its views on the introduction of a ‘Special Policy’ (cumulative impact policy) in relation to the licensing of alcohol premises, at the appropriate time.

6. That to fully meet its obligations, the Council puts priority on implementing Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1989, and delivers the necessary awareness raising and training required.

7. That measures be taken to improve partnership working with the Community Safety Partnership and that regular self assessment of performance is carried out.
Review into Plastic Bag Use and Replacement by Reusable Community Bag

Councillor Alan Craw - Review Panel Chair

A Scrutiny review panel was formed to look at possible ways to reduce use of non degradable plastic carrier bags in Chesterfield, and in particular the free, point of sale, throw away bags. The enquiry supported the Council’s priorities to protect and care for the environment for the future, to improve litter and the street scene, and to the promotion of the Chesterfield economy.

The main review objectives were:

- to examine the feasibility of, and opportunities, for, the partial replacement of point of sale plastic carrier bags within Chesterfield town centre with a reusable calico Chesterfield bag
- to aim for a reduction in throw away plastic bags locally, both short and long term.

Achievements:

The following scrutiny recommendations were approved by Cabinet:

1. Cabinet note the benefit in reducing the use of plastic carrier bags, and support in principle the proposals to introduce a reusable Chesterfield Community bag;

2. Cabinet agree further investigation of possible sponsorship / partnership opportunities, together with the cost, design and production of a Chesterfield bag;

3. Authority be delegated to the Lead Member and Head of Service for Sustainability and Environmental Services to decide whether or not to proceed with production of a bag and allocation of the required estimated start up cost of £2,500 or less, following completion of investigations into available sponsorship funding;

4. If it is decided to pursue production of a reusable bag a working group is formed to co-ordinate and undertake marketing and sales of the bag.

Accountability and Overview :-

The Scrutiny ‘Call-in’ Power

Scrutiny legislation allows for an Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) to investigate, make reports and recommendations on Cabinet decisions that have been agreed but not yet put into action. Legislation allows for action on these decisions to be suspended pending such a Scrutiny inquiry. This process is referred to as ‘Call-in’.

The Council’s Constitution allows for Scrutiny Councillors to make a ‘Call-in’ request to the Scrutiny Board. The Scrutiny Board (the Council’s OSC) considers the Call-in request and decides whether to accept or refuse the request. If a Call-in request is accepted by the Scrutiny Board, the Board will then require the Cabinet to reconsider its decision on the basis of the evidence obtained and reasons given by the Scrutiny Board. If a Call-in request is not accepted by the Scrutiny Board, the Cabinet may continue to action the decision as originally made. This year the Scrutiny Board received and considered the following Call-in:-

Call-In re: Review of the Council’s Corporate Services -

In December 2008 the Council’s Cabinet made the following decisions regarding the review of its corporate services. The decisions were made to ensure the most cost effective and robust arrangements are put in place for delivering Chesterfield Borough Council’s corporate services functions for the future. Cabinet agreed that:

- a notice be published to advertise the procurement of a strategic public/private partner for the Council’s corporate services functions;

- an invest to save bid be approved to fund the associated procurement process;
A request was received to Call-in-the Cabinet decision. Concerns raised centred on the longer term interests of the Council, the services and its employees and questioned whether alternative options had been considered.

The Scrutiny Board considered the matter and received information and evidence from Call-in Councillors. The Board also received submissions, questions and responses from the Lead Member and Chief Officers. The Unions and employees were also included in the scrutiny process.

The Board concluded to support the Cabinet decision and its reasons, and reject the Call-in request. The Board agreed to appoint a Scrutiny Panel to monitor progress of the project throughout and review further decisions to be made. The Scrutiny Panel’s remit, has the following terms of reference:

- to further examine and investigate the existing proposals, as considered achievable and beneficial;
- to monitor and scrutinise further actions and decisions made as proposals move forward and consider whether long term benefits continue to be worthwhile;
- to examine whether the transfer of employees and services to a private sector deliverer would detrimentally affect the quality and standard of service delivery;
- to put forward any alternative options that the panel feels warrants further formal consideration and make appropriate recommendations to Cabinet based on that evidence;
- to raise issues and concerns identified with the executive for consideration and response throughout the review;
- to ensure that individuals affected by the proposals have had the opportunity to raise issues and concerns and feel they have been answered in the interest of transparency and the public interest.

Performance and Finance/Budget Scrutiny -

The Board undertakes regular performance and finance scrutiny and continues to receive and consider the comprehensive quarterly budget and performance Cabinet reports to inform its scrutiny enquiries. Throughout the year Lead Members and Chief Officers are questioned on the performance of their service areas and the budgets they are responsible for and on how they contribute to priorities for the community.

Scrutiny continues to monitor the financial position of the Council. This time last year the Council’s financial situation had greatly improved and the Board acknowledged the success that had been achieved in improving the Council’s financial position. Unfortunately since then, as a result of new national policies and other ongoing economic pressures, the Council is again under financial pressure to find savings and continue to do so.
The Scrutiny Board monitors progress of the implementation of all scrutiny recommendations approved by Cabinet. This follow up procedure is essential to ensure that once the recommendations are approved, Cabinet put them into action. Ultimately this will ensure that the work of Scrutiny impacts on service delivery and that the benefits of our work are received by people in our community. Progress with implementation and action taken is detailed below:-

Review into Plastic Bag Use and Replacement by Reusable Community Bag

This year a review panel looked into possible ways to reduce use of non degradable plastic carrier bags and the introduction of an environmentally friendly Chesterfield bag. Details of this review are included at Section 3 of this report.

The Council’s Markets Unit has been involved with moving the project forward and the following progress has been achieved to date:

- sponsorship money for the project has been secured;
- design of a suitable reusable bag has been completed and a manufacturer secured;
- agreed that the bags will promote information on Chesterfield market days and special events;
- 5,500 organic cotton Chesterfield Market bags have been ordered to date and are due to be delivered and made available to the public in July.

Review of the Recruitment and Retention Scrutiny Review Panel on Employee Exit Interview Procedures

The Scrutiny Board considered that information from employee exit interviews was particularly important ultimately to ensure quality services are delivered. Feedback through such a procedure was considered important to help improve service performance through better employee recruitment, selection and retention, improvement to the working environment and ultimately service quality. A panel was appointed to review and recommend improvements to existing procedures.
The aims of this Scrutiny review were to:

- Establish whether the Council had a formal, corporate exit interview procedure in place;
- Investigate how well the procedure reflects ‘in practice’ requirements of the recruitment and selection policy;
- Identify improvements to existing procedure to better inform employee recruitment / selection and retention;
- Establish whether training was needed for managers undertaking the exit interviews;
- Establish what guidance information on the procedure was needed by both managers and leavers.

The Scrutiny Review Panel made five recommendations to Cabinet which were approved. Details of the recommendations can be found in the Annual Scrutiny Report 06/07.

The Council's Human Resources Section is moving this work forward. To date the following progress has been made in implementing the recommendations:

- A formal, corporate exit interview procedure has been adopted, is co-ordinated by the Council's Human Resource Section and is now well established across the organisation;
- An exit interview questionnaire and appropriate guidance has been produced for leavers and managers;
- Managers have been fully briefed on the importance and requirement of the exit interview procedure;
- Feedback from exit interviews is reported at a corporate level to relevant councillors and officers;
- Feedback, both positive and negative is used to influence any organisational change and improvement considered necessary.
5 Efficiency and Best Value Scrutiny Panel’s work and achievements

In 2008/9 the Efficiency and Best Value Scrutiny Panel were involved in a vast array of different projects. In continuation from 2007/8 focus has remained on the requirements of Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CRS07) and the reporting of efficiencies secured that contribute to the Annual Efficiency Statement.

Comprehensive Spending Review 2007/Annual Efficiency Statement and Efficiency Peer Review

The AES backward look for 2007/8 was completed and reported to the panel. This report highlighted that the council had exceeded its target savings for the year by almost £1 million, reporting a figure 152% above target.

£876,600 would be carried forward into the new CSR07 reporting period 2008-2011.

In addition the panel have agreed to commission an Efficiency Peer Review to be undertaken by the national Improvement and Development Agency. This review will focus on the council’s AES arrangements.

An Efficiency Peer Review is an external challenge by a small team of expert reviewers aiming to share good practice and identify areas for improvement.

The review team comprises of three peers, with two normally from a local government background. The process takes three days and key messages would be fed back at the end of each day.

The Peer Review leader would provide a final detailed report on their findings with particular emphasis on:

- leadership of the Efficiency Agenda;
- the Council’s strategy and action plan for efficiency;
- use of resources;
- process improvement and smarter procurement;
- management of change programmes and projects.

The Peer Review demonstrates a willingness by Chesterfield Borough Council to meet the challenge of delivering improved services with reduced support budgets, in accordance with the operational efficiency programme, an additional savings initiative proposed by the Government. This review will take place in 2009/10

Best Value Review of Energy Efficiency

The Best Value review of Energy Efficiency was completed in 2008/9. The scope of the review was ‘To review the arrangements in place for identifying and securing efficiency at Chesterfield Borough Council and suggesting improvements’.

The review was very productive and the council’s current approach towards energy efficiency was commended by external consultants during the challenge phase of the review.

A report and action plan have been produced and approved by Cabinet.

Good progress is already being made towards many actions and progress reports will continue to be presented to Efficiency & Best Value Scrutiny Panel to monitor the impact of the proposed actions.

Best Value Review - Value for Money

A Best Value Review for the period 2009/10 has been commissioned by the panel. The review will address the council’s approach to value for money and activity costing. The review was selected as a result of the audit commission’s annual audit report which stated that although the council did well achieving a 3 out of 4 score for use of resources, the approach to value for money was not consistent across the council.

The review will examine best practice in both the public & private sectors before reporting back to the panel later in 2009.
Change Management Reports

A number of reports have been considered by the panel which highlight changes in working practice which have resulted in, or are planned to secure, financial savings for the authority including:-

- Procurement of a new mobile phone contract
- Integration of Quality Management Systems
- Management of Defibrillators
- Security Services Arrangements at Pavements Shopping Centre
- Insurance claims review

Performance Monitoring

The panel continues to play an ongoing role in the monitoring of performance and has considered many progress reports in 2008/9 including:-

- Bereavement Services Best Value Review
- Review of Support Services
- Spirepride Improvement Plan
- Soresby Street Pay on Return Scheme

Joint Working Initiatives

As part of the performance monitoring role the panel has considered updates on performance for the councils Joint working initiatives including:-

- Joint working Health & Safety
- Internal Audit
- Procurement
- Building Control

Procurement Reviews

The panel has received regular progress reports from the shared procurement unit which have demonstrated the savings which the team have achieved of CBC since the new structure commenced in 2007.

The unit has exceeded the savings target set in its first two years of operation.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and requirements of the Police and Justice Act 2006 both have implications for the Overview and Scrutiny role. After long delays most of this legislation impacting on Scrutiny is now in force. However, some is still affected by further legislation currently passing through parliamentary stages and in relation to that, further legislation, regulations and guidance are still awaited.

Both pieces of legislation provide more general powers to challenge Partners, ie other organisations which deliver public services across the community, in particular those involved with the Local Strategic Partnerships and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (Community Safety Partnerships).

Both pieces of legislation also introduce new duties and powers for Scrutiny including the new duty of ‘Councillor Call for Action’ which aims to strengthen the Ward Councillor’s community leadership role in bringing forward issues on behalf of their communities.

New Derbyshire Scrutiny Liaison Group

In anticipation of the new powers and obligations mentioned above, Derbyshire Councils have formed a Derbyshire Scrutiny Liaison Group of key Scrutiny Councillors and Officers. The group is an informal arrangement which provides an important opportunity for communication and co-ordination of scrutiny work that would benefit from a partnership approach. The government’s new Comprehensive Area Assessment performance inspection framework will provide an indication of what it is like to live in the area of Derbyshire which brings with it an expectation for public service deliverers in Derbyshire to work together to deliver better public services for the area. As the Scrutiny function is about challenging public service deliverers to ensure good quality and good value services are provided, the Derbyshire Scrutiny Liaison Group can help ensure scrutiny challenge and review of public services across the county can be undertaken in an effective and efficient way.

Councillor Learning and Development

- Last year a number of training sessions were delivered in partnership with the Improvement and Development Agency (IDEA), Centre for Public Scrutiny (CPFS) and Local Government East Midlands (LGEM). These continued throughout 2008 and covered a variety of learning for those Councillors involved in Scrutiny.
- Birmingham University’s Local Government Business School (INLOGOV) also delivered training on Questioning Skills for all Councillors particularly those involved in Scrutiny.

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Chesterfield, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire

During the year a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee was established to monitor and scrutinise joint services delivered between the three Councils of Chesterfield, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire. The Joint Committee is in its pilot stage and has now had three meetings to agree its remit and scrutinise the shared services of Procurement, Audit and Building Control. An evaluation of the operation of the Joint Committee will be reported at the end of the pilot period.
This year we are encouraged by the strengthening of Scrutiny powers and the attention being given by government to raising the profile and status of the Scrutiny function through new legislation and debates in parliament. Ironically, in such testing times, we are also pleased to see the increased profile and role of national Scrutiny in ensuring, what appears to be an ever increasing need for, good accountability for the general public and taxpayer.

We ourselves continue to explore different ways to represent the public, and involve stakeholders in what we do, and in raising awareness and understanding of the Overview and Scrutiny role. Detailed below are some of the things we have done this year.

**Consultation on Scrutiny Work Programme**

Again this year for our work programme we consulted, and/or included issues raised from the Public (through Community Forums and the Citizens Panel), Partners (through CHART our Local Strategic Partnership), and our Councillors and Officers. We align issues brought forward against priorities to help us focus our efforts on those more important areas. This comprehensive consultation and prioritisation process, with the documents used and produced, also provide good evidence to support Scrutiny working effectively and involving the public and other stakeholders.

**Building Relationships with Key Partners**

Through the Derbyshire Scrutiny Liaison Group mentioned in Section 6, preparations for new relationships with partners has led to the adoption by the Councils in Derbyshire of a Working Protocol for Partners. We hope the Protocol will be an aid to helping the Councils and partners work together better for our communities.

We continue to build our relationship with our Local Strategic Partnership (CHART) and the Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership. As from 30 April 2009 new legislation requires our Scrutiny Board to meet as the statutory Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee at least once yearly to challenge and review the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

**Raising Issues with Scrutiny**

Reaching out to and involving the public in our work has always been the most difficult of achievements. This year we introduced some guidance on how the public, through Community Forums, other interest groups or as individuals, can raise issues and concerns with Scrutiny. We will however need to revisit this guidance to align it with procedures for the new scrutiny duty of Councillor Call for Action as this develops.

**Corporate Communications**

Alongside our informal, internal communication arrangements, we have a standing Corporate Communications item on the Scrutiny Board meeting agenda. This agenda item provides the facility for regular, more formal communications between Scrutiny and Cabinet and Corporate Management. This year the Council’s Chief Executive attended public meetings of the Scrutiny Board to answer questions on a number of occasions.

**Website**

We continue to maintain and develop pages on the Council’s website dedicated to the Overview and Scrutiny function to help raise awareness and provide information about the role, to increase public knowledge and encourage involvement.

**Press Releases**

The use of press releases has helped us raise our profile and build a better relationship with our local media. We will continue to issue press releases about our work.
8 Looking forward to 2009/10 Scrutiny Board work programme and plans for next year

The Scrutiny Board Work Programme of planned items includes those issues agreed for Scrutiny Review Panels for the year, ongoing priorities such as performance and finance scrutiny, and the monitoring of implementation and improvement plans. There will also be other unplanned business the Board will deal with as and when it arises.

Scrutiny aims for its work to have a community focus and involve citizens where possible. From consultation with the Public, Partners, Councillors and Officers undertaken, the Board has included the following areas and issues in its work programme for the 2009/10 municipal year:

- Litter Dropping and Nuisance
- Tenancy Enforcement Policy
- Community Safety Issues
- Corporate Services Review
- Hackney Carriage Licence and Trade Issues
- Town Centre Road Closures Initiative
- Implementing Equalities Policy
- Concessionary Fares Scheme
- Homeless Application Procedure

The Overview and Scrutiny function is a continual evolving and growing role requiring ongoing improvement and development. Much of the development work undertaken this year is detailed in the previous sections 6 and 7. Plans for 2009/10 include the following :-

- Scrutiny involvement in Councillor Call for Action for 'crime and disorder' and 'local government' matters;
- Powers to scrutinise partners in relation to area targets and more generally;
- Scrutiny involvement in considering Petitions.

Scrutiny Evaluation

We have intended to undertake some evaluation of our function for some time and some initial work had commenced before deciding to defer the work pending the arrival of a new Chief Executive in post. Now we also have a new Deputy Chief Executive in post we are awaiting the completion of some reshaping of the organisation before continuing with the evaluation.

Scrutiny Guidance

This year new duties required the need to focus on the involvement of partners (other public service deliverers in our community) and develop better partnership-scrutiny working arrangements and guidance. We hope to introduce more general scrutiny guidance next year.

New Duties and Powers for Scrutiny

Legislation has introduced a number of new duties and powers for Scrutiny though some of these are still passing through parliament. Necessary training and development will potentially need to cover the following areas:
9 Scrutiny at Chesterfield and Scrutiny Membership

Structure of the Council

- Planning Committee
- Licensing Committee
- Appeals and Regulatory Committee
- Employment and General Committee

COUNCIL
48 Members

- Standards Committee

8 Community Forums

CABINET
Leader & Deputy (Lead Members)

Scrutiny Board & Efficiency and Best Value Scrutiny Panel
Scrutiny Members

Scrutiny Board: Councillors

Denise Hawksworth - Chair
Toby Perkins - Vice Chair
Jane Collins
Alan Craw
Bridget Dunks
Keith Falconer
Eleanor Holmes
Vicki Lang
Paul Mann
Adrian Mather
Roy Pastoll
Nicky Qazi

Efficiency and Best Value Scrutiny Panel: Councillors

Nicky Qazi - Chair
Bridget Dunks - Vice Chair
Margaret Arnold
Keith Falconer
Chris Ludlow
Toby Perkins
Nicholas Redihough
Paul Stone

Contact for further information:

Anita Cunningham
Scrutiny Officer
Tel: 01246 345273
anita.cunningham@chesterfield.gov.uk

or visit the Council’s website at:
http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk
CHESTERFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
ARE WE ACCESSIBLE TO YOU? IF NOT ASK US!

● We want everyone to be able to understand us
● We want everyone to be able to read our written material
● We aim to provide what you require to enable you to read, talk and write to us

On request we will provide FREE -
✓ language interpreters, including for sign language
✓ Translations of written materials into other languages
✓ Materials in braille, large print and on tape

Please contact us -
General enquiries 01246 345345
Mobile text phone 07609 10264
Fax 01246 345252

Please contact us -

一般咨询 01246 345345
传真 01246 345252

07609 10264
01246 345345
01246 345252
01246 345006

01246 345734
01246 345098