

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

12 July 2005

Report of the Chairman of Scrutiny Committee

Part 1- Public

Matters For Decision

1 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT

To report on the activities of the Scrutiny Committee over the past year.

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution requires an annual report to be submitted to Council on the activities of the Scrutiny Committee over the past year.
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Committee has held six formal meetings over this period and a number of individual review group meetings have also been held. It has sought to focus its work on issues of direct importance to the local community where agencies external to the Borough Council are involved in the delivery of services. Over the past year, we have dealt with the following key issues:
- Disabled Facilities Grants
 - Update of the Community Strategy
 - Local Agenda 21
 - Archaeological Advice
 - Street Lighting
 - GP Services
 - Youth Support and Development
- 1.3 For each of these reviews, recommendations have been agreed to Cabinet which has resulted in positive changes. In particular, the review of youth support and development has recommended significant improvements in the way in which the Council engages and involves young people and the review of GP services has identified the need to work more closely with our local Primary Care Trusts over changes and improvements to existing GP practices. The review of Street Lighting maintenance brought together the two contractors involved in providing the

service and the County Council and this has resulted in closer liaison between the parties and more efficient working practices.

- 1.4 The review of the LA21 function undertaken by my Vice Chairman, Cllr Geraldine Bowden, has sought to focus our environmental work on community projects and, at the same time, address sustainability issues within the Council itself.
- 1.5 More recently, the Committee has decided to address a number of further community issues: Services for older people in the home, a review of dentistry, in partnership with Maidstone Borough Council, and a review of water supply and conservation. We hope to report back to Members on the outcomes from each review during the year.
- 1.6 RECOMMENDATION
- 1.7 That the annual report on the activities of the Scrutiny Committee BE NOTED.

Background papers:

contact: Mark Raymond

Nil

David Hughes
Chief Executive