



# **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT**

**18 May 2016**

# Foreword of the Scrutiny Chairs

Our Scrutiny Committees have been in place for a year now since being changed to align with the new Corporate Plan, approved in July 2015.

We had 12 new Members join the Scrutiny Committees following the 2015 elections who have quickly settled in, bringing with them a variety of expertise.

Our focus over the next year needs to be on the challenges facing the Authority, and our aim, to ensure that Scrutiny can continue to make a valuable contribution.

***Councillor Rose Bowler***

Chair of the Customer Service and Transformation Scrutiny Committee

***Councillor Sandra Peake***

Chair of the Healthy, Safe, Clean and Green Communities Scrutiny Committee

***Councillor Steve Fritchley***

Chair of the Growth Scrutiny Committee

# Summary of 2015/16

## Review of CAN Rangers

The Customer Service and Transformation Scrutiny Committee carried out a review of the CAN ranger Service to consider how the role of the Rangers had evolved since the service was established and to determine whether the service was prepared for future demands.

The review concluded that the service was an asset to the Authority. The community issues in our towns would not disappear overnight and the Rangers played a major role in maintaining safer communities.

On 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016, Executive approved the seven recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee and made a further recommendation;

*That a further report be prepared by officers in conjunction with the Assistant Director – Community Safety and Head of Housing (BDC), Portfolio Members for Community Cohesion and Housing and IT and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Customer Service and Transformation Scrutiny Committee to explore a more joined up, collaborative service.*

The Scrutiny Committee agreed to request an update on progress against the seven recommendations in six months time (June 2016) and the recommendation made by Executive is currently being followed up and a report will be taken to a future Scrutiny Committee. At this point, the committee will assess the impact of the review.

## Annual review of the Community Safety Partnership

In order to ensure that an effective review of the Community Safety Partnership was carried out, the Healthy, Safe, Clean and Green Scrutiny Committee compiled a list of questions set out under the following headings;

- Efficiency
- Effectiveness
- Understanding local communities
- Accountability

The questions were provided to the relevant Officers and Portfolio Holder four weeks prior to the annual review to ensure that the Officers had a reasonable amount of time to prepare their responses.

The review meeting was more structured than it had been in the past and Members and Officers agreed that the review was conducted more efficiently as a result and a thorough review of the work of the Community Safety Partnership over the past year took place with some improvements in communication and addressing concerns regarding the success of the Langwith Public Spaces Protection Order identified.

### **Joint Scrutiny Panel**

The Authority is represented on the Joint Scrutiny Panel by Councillors Bennett, Turner and Wilson. The Panel scrutinises the two shared services of Bolsover District Council, Chesterfield Borough Council and North East Derbyshire District Council which are BCN Consultancy (Building Control) and the Internal Audit Consortium.

This year the panel have considered reports relating to the future of both shared services.

### **The year ahead**

At the Annual Scrutiny Conference, Members discussed the Constitution and the call-in rules and procedure. Further discussions have taken place since the conference.

Members also discussed principles of effective scrutiny and highlighted some areas for improvement. It was requested that Scrutiny Members carry out their own evaluation of the Scrutiny function during the next year.

Work plans for each of the three Scrutiny Committees are now being developed following the Scrutiny Conference which will include key items such as;

- Development of Growth Performance Indicators
- Creation of a development prospectus for the District
- Assessing the impact of Universal Credit – six months after implementation
- Provision of GP services in Creswell and Langwith

The Scrutiny Officer will provide support to the Scrutiny Members to implement a programme of Scrutiny Reviews to constructively challenge current work practices and identify service improvements as set out in the Governance Team Service Plan.