

**Report of the
MANAGEMENT O & S
COMMITTEE**

Chairman

Cllr. B. O. Earp

The final meeting of the O & S Committee in the municipal year was held on the 26th April 2007. The main subject matter was the Annual Report of the O & S Committees 2006/7.

The most important factors being: -

- a) New chairman and training requirement.
- b) Officer support – more detailed work to be undertaken this year.
- c) Networking and Joint Activity with the County Joint Scrutiny Overview Group.
- d) Holding the Executive to Account.
Encourage O & S Members to question Portfolio Holders on Policy Matters.
- e) Improvement Reviews.
These had superseded the Best Value Reviews.
- f) Subject Reviews.
An important aspect but should not dominate the workload.
- g) Call Ins – only one during 2006/7
- h) Overview and Scrutiny Improvement Plans.
Progress had been good. The Task and Finish Group on the Protocol, for relations between Scrutiny and the Executive, was productive. (see below)
Dr Snape will be invited to return to review the Council's progress.

The final meeting of the Task and Finish on the Protocol for relations between Scrutiny and the Executive took place on the 2nd May 2007.

The Protocol had covered: -

- i) Attendance at each other's meetings and the Civic diary
- ii) The Forward Plan
- iii) Speaking at respective meetings

- iv) Holding Portfolio Holders to account**
- v) Responding to O & S Subject Review Final Reports**
- vi) Responding to O & S recommendations/resolutions**
- vii) Planning for O & S Policy Development Role**
- viii) Monitoring and Review of the Protocol**

The Protocol was agreed by all members of the group and now awaits approval by the Management O & S Committee on the 5th July 2007, then the Executive, before being presented to Council.

The group will undertake a structural review after a full Civic Year. Coinciding, the Senior Management Team will also review the application of the Protocol insofar as it relates to Officers.

The Task and Finish Group also considered the necessity for the future existence of a Management O & S Committee. Only 4 out of the top 24 excellent District Councils have such a Committee.

The present division of work between Committees, has, over a period of time, reached a clearer understanding but should there be a closer alignment to priorities and/or current Portfolios?

A Constitutional Review may be appropriate for the number and scope of our Scrutiny Committees, plus a possible separate O & S Committee to deal solely with Carlisle Renaissance. Would this be beneficial?

In conclusion, a great deal of work still needs to be accomplished during the current municipal year by the Management O & S Committee.