

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIRMAN:

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MANAGEMENT**

Report of
Chairman:

COUNCILLOR JEFFERSON

Two meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee have been held on the 7 November and 17 December 2002.

On the 7 November the main consideration was the future development of the Overview and Scrutiny function and how it affects the workings of this Local Authority. The latest Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Report identified some of the Best Practice Initiatives and it was noted that our Head of Corporate Strategy was invited to give evidence to the Research Team and that some of our scrutiny methods were recommended as "Best Practice".

Further to this report more focused training was shown to be vital. Networking with others would be to our advantage. I think the report from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister shows that we are on the right track to improving the Overview and Scrutiny role in the Council. Members are becoming more knowledgeable as to their role and I believe that the Executive is more aware as to what we are about.

The meeting on the 17 December was mainly concerned with Best Value Reviews. On the Bereavement Best Value Action Plan the Committee felt that it needed some revision to be effective and the Democratic Engagement Best Value Review needed more supporting information.

The Committee felt that getting it right at the start was more effective than faults appearing later.

The effect of the Emergency Planning Review were noted and the role of the Head of Corporate Strategy was acknowledged.

COUNCILLOR D JEFFERSON
January 03