

**COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Report of
Chairman

COUNCILLOR GARETH ELLIS

**REVIEW OF ACTION TAKEN, AND FUTURE DIRECTION
OF COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**

Decisions called in: None at this time.

Portfolio Holders interviewed: Cllr Prest & Cllr Bloxham (24 Oct 01)

At the first meeting (11 October), the Committee received a presentation from the Community Safety Co-ordinator, the Committee agreed to continue the Best Value Review through the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee, with the Best Value Reviews for Bereavement Services and Strategic Approach to Housing to be carried out on a cyclical basis.

Following a request by the Vice Chairman and Cllr Weber, the procedure for 'dealing with Leisuretime following the Best Value Review' was discussed at length.

I proposed two special meetings, on the 17th and 24th October, the Director of Leisure presented his revised Action Plan on the 17th. Following that meeting, Cllr Prest and Cllr Bloxham were invited to attend on the 24th October, where the Committee will make recommendations to either the Executive or Council on how it implements the Leisuretime Action Plan.

At the first meeting concern was expressed by all members about the Government's intentions in regards to NHS Reform, specifically, the creeping Regionalism. It was felt that Cumbria gained from its specialist healthcare links with the North East, and that these reforms jeopardised this.

Due to the unanimous nature of the Committee, it was agreed that we request the attendance of the Chief Executive of North Cumbria Health Authority for either two of the special meetings previously agreed.

The Chief Executive of North Cumbria Health Authority, it has now been confirmed, will attend the meeting on the 24th October.

The Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings so far, have been relatively open and constructive; with the minimum of party politics hopefully this will continue.

The Scrutiny process, to be successful requires consensus not confrontation, it is my aim to try and build consensus into the process for the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and act as a 'Critical Friend' to the Executive, not as an obstructive inconvenience.

22 October 2001

Lat Reports of Chairmen – Cllr Ellis Community Overview & Scrutiny