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**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2002**

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**OSM.72/02      MINUTES OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES AND  
REFERENCES TO MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Chairmen of the respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees presented the Minutes of the undermentioned meetings:-

**(c)                      Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 12 September  
2002**

Councillor Mrs Mallinson commented that she had required to leave the meeting during consideration of the item of business relating to On Street Parking Enforcement Review (Minute IOS.81/02 refers) and asked that the Minutes be amended to reflect that.

The Chairman of the Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee drew attention to the major items discussed during what had been a lengthy meeting. She added that the meeting of the Committee to be held on 5 December 2002 would be an all day meeting in order that the afternoon session could be devoted to the re-scoping of the Regeneration Best Value Review.

A Member commented that under Overview and Scrutiny Members were able to enter into detailed discussions and that was a particular advantage of the system when compared to the old Committee structure.

A Member cautioned against moving towards a scenario whereby meetings became too lengthy. The Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer indicated that he endeavoured to structure Agendas in such a way that the key items of business were considered early on, thus ensuring that they received the attention they deserved.

The Chairman of the Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee expressed concern that Overview and Scrutiny Committees were not being afforded the opportunity to comment upon certain items of business prior to their being considered by the Executive. She added that under the Council's Constitution the only avenue open to Members was to call in such decisions. That course of action may not be appropriate in situations where Members did not disagree with the decision reached, but merely wished to have their comments considered. She added that she had no wish to be obstructive by holding up Executive decision making, and suggested that the timetabling of meetings of the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny required to be looked at.

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A Member added that the manner by which items were scheduled in the Forward Plan required to be addressed to ensure that sufficient time was allowed for them to go to the Executive via Overview and Scrutiny.

A Member added that care required to be taken to ensure that the urgency Rules were not employed as a way of avoiding issues being considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

The Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer indicated that, in his opinion, some of these problems which Members had highlighted were diminishing, and that he was now getting much more support from Officers.

A Member commented that Performance Indicators were an increasing part of the Committees' workload, but the training requested by Members had yet to be provided.

The Corporate Best Value Officer indicated that she had been asked by the Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy to pursue Best Value training and that the Performance Officer was to have provided training on performance monitoring. However, since the Performance Officer had now left the Authority she would investigate the possibility of joint training being provided for Members, that training to include the interpretation of indicators and how local priorities were reflected.

RESOLVED – (1) That, subject to the above, such Minutes be noted.

(2) That the Executive be advised of the concerns expressed by Members that they were not always afforded the opportunity to consider items of business prior to the Executive reaching a decision thereon.