

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

INFRASTRUCTURE

Report of
Chairman:

**COUNCILLOR
CAROLE RUTHERFORD**

Since my last report to Council there have been a number of developments affecting how O&S Committees operate. On 1st April a training session for O&S Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen throughout Cumbria was held in Carlisle. Some of outcomes of that training session endorsed the findings of the internal workshop held on 28th January. It appeared that most, if not all, were experiencing problems with managing the agenda, prioritising work loads, poor communication links with Executive/Cabinet, lack of understanding from Officers as to how to present information to Committees and alienation of Non-Executive/Committee Elected Members. As with the workshop some of the findings can be incorporated immediately into present practices others hopefully will develop over time.

On 24th March there was a special meeting on the Local Plan Review that was opened up to all members. Unfortunately it was not as well attended as it might have been, owing perhaps to members having other commitments. I am sure that those who did attend found Chris Hardman's presentation both interesting and informative.

The Infrastructure O&S is undertaking a Best Value Review into Planning and the first stages of that review will have taken place by the time of this Council Meeting. Similarly the Supporting Communities Best Value Review will have moved on a stage. (Both items appear on the Agenda of the April 17th meeting), although officially the Minutes of that will not be presented to Council until 15th July, because of the time lag I will be happy to give a verbal update at this Council Meeting.

Councillor Carole Rutherford
Chairman
Overview & Scrutiny Committee Infrastructure