

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIRMAN:

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MANAGEMENT**

Report of
Chairman:

COUNCILLOR JEFFERSON

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee met on 30 January 2003 when Councillor Ray Knapton chaired the meeting (see Minutes).

I am pleased to report that the Overview and Scrutiny function is performing well and it's contribution to the overall performance of the Authority is being confirmed.

One of my concerns has been the availability of access to training for members. However we did have a very useful workshop for Chairs and Vice-Chairs at Tullie House on the 28 January 2003.

A review of the way in which we presently work was agreed. More flexibility was felt to be needed in Committee numbers, responsibilities etc. Should we engage more backbench members, how do we incorporate the views of the ordinary citizen, what about local issues?

The whole of Scrutiny should ask the question "are we making a difference?"

I believe that in this Authority we are making a proper contribution to the overall performance.

Training must be a priority for future development and will be programmed. All political parties are showing a willingness to work together as never before, and we must build on this. Clearly focused, "in depth" studies can only help the decisions of the Executive.

There are still areas of concern but we, on the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, are making good progress towards our objectives.

COUNCILLOR D JEFFERSON
February 2003