

**Report to the Cabinet on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting
held on 6 November 2008.**

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee held a busy meeting on 6 November 2008. We received a presentation from Alison Cowie of the West Essex PCT on Health Inequalities in Essex and in particular the problems of deprivation within areas of this district and the link to health. We have asked officers to come back to our March 2009 meeting with a report outlining the work being done by the Council in this area.
2. We received the report of the Task and Finish Panel on Value for Money in Planning Services. The Panel's full report was agreed by members. We have asked the Planning Standing Panel, under Councillor Wagland's stewardship, to oversee the development of a Service Improvement Plan for Planning Services.
3. We are also seeking member's views on a Government Consultation on the making of byelaws. It is suggested that discretion could be given to Council's to make byelaws without recourse to the Secretary of State. Consultation is also being sought on the enforcement issues. The deadline for comments is before our next meeting so we have asked that the information is published in the bulletin so that Councillors can feed back their comments to Colleen O'Boyle directly.
4. We have reviewed our work programme and at present have decided not to set up further reviews but we are awaiting a further request at our December meeting. We have formally asked the Constitution and Members Services Standing Panel to oversee the Overview and Scrutiny review for 2009 as new legislation is planned by the government early in the New Year.
5. We received a report of the Leisure Task and Finish Panel regarding a proposed feasibility study on relocating sports facilities in Waltham Abbey to the Waltham Abbey Swimming Pools site. This matter is before the Cabinet this evening and my committee commend the proposal to you.
6. Lastly, we have asked full Council to make an appointment to the County's new Task and Finish Panel on Commissioning in West Essex PCT. We have also started preliminary discussions with Harlow and Uttlesford District Council's on a piece of joint health scrutiny for the New Year which will come back to our next meeting.