

## **Scrutiny Commission Report for the 22<sup>nd</sup> November Commission Meeting**

The last ten months has seen considerable change in scrutiny and the Council more widely. That will not stop. So this Commission is our collective opportunity to focus scrutiny on these two panels and consider possible topics for future Task and Finish panels. Scrutiny must be robust and enabling to this council, offering challenge as an improvement tool of the council to “do things better”

Looking forward we are now in a new era of budgeting and the All Councillor Briefing of 12<sup>th</sup> November was an important introduction on the way forward and scrutiny’s role within that. No More Choice–Based budgeting. You should have received the paperwork from that briefing already and members who were present can fill you in on any detail requiring clarification. The budget scrutiny will consist of two scrutiny meetings on:

**10<sup>th</sup> January.** Performance management: focused on the Delivery Plan to achieve the critical activities and ensure the four Council priorities are delivered.

**24<sup>th</sup> January.** Budget scrutiny, all Commission members, focussed at a high level on the priorities and activities aligned to them. Many activities / priorities are being met by external agencies and partners i.e. NHS; Leisure Trust; Jobcentre Plus.

In the run-up to these meetings members may be receiving updated figures as they are received and processed within the council before these meeting dates, especially that of the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Under the new structure of scrutiny there have been successes: the two task panels that completed their work and were considered by the Executive in their policies for bin collection and the lettings policy for the renewed Council building. There is a need to improve the alignment of scrutiny with the new and developing framework for focusing on the **Corporate Plan** delivery (Council *priorities*) and the **Delivery Plan** (Council *activities*) to deliver the corporate plan plus the budgets aligned to them. This will be an ongoing process but we should bear this in mind for our Scrutiny Commission meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

We will have suggestions for scrutiny tonight and I look forward to a full and engaging debate.

Your Commissioner,

Cllr. Dr Paul Bremner