

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

# OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12



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# Chair's Introduction

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## **Councillor Stephen Barnes-Andrews Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee - 2011/12**

2011/12 saw the scrutiny function actively engaged in challenging and influencing decisions taken across the city.

Whilst undertaking the Council's statutory health scrutiny role the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP) worked closely with health service providers scrutinising the significant changes taking place to health services at a local and national level.

The HOSP continues to scrutinise the major changes to the health infrastructure in Southampton, such as the creation of the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Health and Well-Being Board, seeking to ensure that the interests of patients and residents are at the forefront of decision making. In addition the HOSP played a key role in supporting the campaign to maintain children's congenital cardiac services at Southampton General Hospital. A decision on this is expected shortly. The HOSP also worked closely with LINK and health partners to ensure Specialist Neurological Rehabilitation is delivered from an appropriate setting in Southampton.

In 2011/2012 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC), whilst holding the Executive to account, conducted an inquiry into the subject of 'The Big Society' in the City. There has been no use of the councillor Call for Action procedure this year.

However, OSMC called in two Executive decisions. First was the Council Change Programme. OSMC made the clear recommendation that it should be subject to political control and accountability. This was accepted by the Cabinet. Secondly, the proposed sale of Romanse and CCTV was called in because of the insufficient depth of information made available to OSMC, and rejection of any in-house options. This was subsequently rejected by the Cabinet.

We received the annual report on Keeping Children Safe and noted the hard work that had been undertaken in this area in the previous twelve months. However, we noted with regret the high turn over amongst social workers.

I hope that in 2012/2013 OSMC will be in a position to hold the decision makers to account for policy decisions rather spending their time gathering information. Greater clarity around the forward plan will assist in this.

I would like to thank Councillor R. Smith for attending OSMC and discussing the budget, also for his co-operation throughout the year. I would like to thank Councillor A. Vinson for his support, valuable hard work and advice as Vice-Chair, and Councillor V. Capozzoli for his work as Chair of the HOSP. Thanks also go to all members of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the HOSP for their useful contributions. Grateful thanks to Mark Pirnie and Dorota Goble for their support during the year and particularly on 'The Big Society Inquiry', and to Caronwen Rees for her support to the HOSP.

# The Purpose and Functions of Overview & Scrutiny

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## Decision making context

The **Full Council** of 48 Councillors approves the policy framework which sets out the key policies and programmes for the main services provided by the Council. In February each year Council meets to set the Council Tax for the following year.

The **Executive** (Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members) make decisions relating to services provided by the Council, except for those matters which are reserved for decision by the full Council, planning and licensing matters which are dealt with by specialist regulatory panels. The Executive is made up of a Leader, elected by Council, and his or her appointed Cabinet Members.

The **Scrutiny** function helps to inform the decision making process and improve the way the Council works. They assess what impact the Executive's policies and plans will have on the City and its residents.

Scrutiny is a process for:

- Holding the Executive, chief officers and senior members of staff to account for the discharge of its functions by examining, challenging and, if necessary requesting changes to Executive Decisions made but not yet implemented
- Scrutinising and reviewing policies and practices within a cross-service remit, assisting in the development of such policies and practices and scrutinising policy outcomes – e.g. the implementation of strategic priorities
- Reviewing decisions and policies made by the Executive and considering whether they are right for the City
- Assessing the Council's performance against its planned targets and monitoring critical success factors
- Reviewing the work of other partnerships and public sector organisations in the City, particularly the Safe City Partnership and health agencies
- Championing issues of local concern to residents and contribute to the policy development and service improvement.

## Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee is a parent committee that manages the overview and scrutiny process and meets on a monthly basis. The membership for Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee is appointed for the municipal year at the Annual Council meeting in May.

For 2012/13 there are a number of Scrutiny Panels that support the work of the Executive and the Council as a whole. These Panels predominantly carry out an annual work programme of Scrutiny Inquiries approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. These arrangements allow citizens to have a greater say in Council matters by holding public inquiries into matters of local concern. These Inquiries lead to reports and recommendations which advise the Executive and the Council as a whole on its policies, budget and service delivery.

In addition the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel undertakes the important statutory scrutiny of the operation of health agencies in Southampton.

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee also monitors the decisions of the Executive and can 'Call-In' a decision which has been made by the Executive but not yet implemented. This enables them to consider whether the decision is appropriate.

## Councillor Call for Action

Enables all Councillors to refer single ward issues, or 'Local Government matters', to Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

## 2012/13 Scrutiny Panels

- Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel
- Scrutiny Panel A
- Scrutiny Panel B

# Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

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**Councillor Stephen Barnes-Andrews**

**Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee**

2011/12 proved to be a busy year for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC). In addition to the Committee's role of holding the Executive to account the OSMC also undertook the statutory scrutiny of the community safety partnership and conducted an inquiry into 'The Big Society'.

## **Holding the Executive to account**

To inform the decision making process the Executive were, at the monthly meetings of the OSMC, scrutinised over a number of key decisions, and policy areas during 2011/12. These included the following:

- Provider Services in Adult Social Care
- Grants to voluntary organisations
- 2012/13 Budget
- Safeguarding children and young people
- HMO levels in the City
- \*The Council's Change Programme
- \*Outsourcing of ROMANSE and CCTV

\*These final two items resulted in Executive decisions being Called-In by the OSMC, as outlined in the report's introduction.

In addition the Committee scrutinised on a quarterly basis the Council's performance enabling trends to be identified and examined with the appropriate Cabinet Member. The OSMC also challenged the progress made by the Executive, and appropriate partner organisations, in implementing recommendations generated by the completed Scrutiny Inquiries.

## **Scrutiny of the Southampton Safe City Partnership**



In March 2012 the OSMC scrutinised the performance of the Safe City Partnership through the discussion of the Strategic Assessment. This document provides detailed intelligence on crime reduction and community safety in the city. This discussion enabled the Committee to influence the strategic direction of travel and the priorities in the Safe City Partnership Plan, due for approval on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2012.

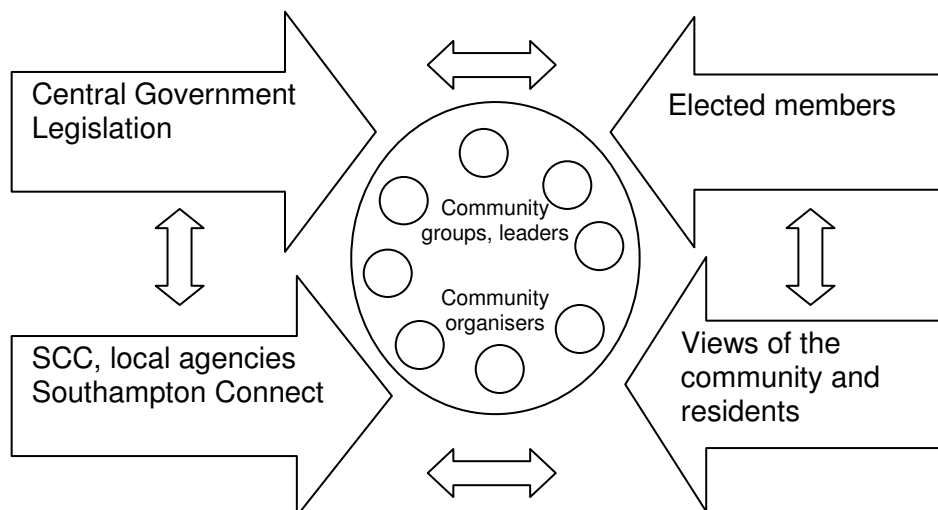
## **The Big Society Inquiry**

From September 2011 to April 2012 the OSMC undertook an inquiry into the Coalition Government's flagship initiative, the Big Society. The purpose of the Inquiry was to clarify what the Big Society is and what it means to Southampton, to establish the Council's future role, functions and resourcing for the development of the Big Society across the City.

OSMC received evidence from a variety of organisations and individuals from across Southampton as well as national advisors and examples of best practice.

Evidence gathered throughout the Inquiry led the Committee to conclude that:

- The City has a strong history of community activity and there is real potential to build a more empowered and socially active Southampton through a cultural shift and greater focus, coordination and joined up working.
- There is much that the Council can do to support this step change through opening up public services, particularly through simplifying the procurement process and changing the way services are delivered; within its community leadership role as an enabler and facilitator and stepping in with targeted help to build capacity and support communities to help themselves where it is needed, especially in the less affluent areas of the City.
- This cannot be achieved in isolation; partnership work and the collective role of Southampton Connect are vital to ensure the best way forward for a strong City with empowered communities and individuals. The building blocks to achieve this are well underway.
- Finally, it was recognised that this cultural change will not happen overnight and given limited resources a blanket approach cannot be taken. It is suggested that, where practical, small measured trials of proposed actions are undertaken, and once lessons are learnt through this pilot approach, steps can be taken to adapt and roll out successful initiatives, based on achievable outcomes and the needs of a particular community or locality.



*The integration and collaboration needed to deliver the Big Society*

The final report contained 11 recommendations under the headings of opening up public services; empowering communities; and social action. Recommendations included the following:

- Simplify the council's procurement processes
- Work with universities to develop street captains in areas with a high student population of students
- Harness the learning and experiences of the Community Organisers and identify how existing community resources can be directed so that shared community posts or community organisers are operating within the least affluent areas in the City.

The Executive have received the final report of the OSMC and are in the process of responding to the reports recommendations.

**Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee Membership – 2011/12:**

Councillor Stephen Barnes-Andrews (Chair)

Councillor Adrian Vinson (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Beryl Harris

Councillor Les Harris

Councillor Raymond Mead

Councillor Keith Morrell

Councillor Anthony Kolker

Councillor Matthew Stevens

Councillor Dr Richard Williams

Councillor Ben Walker

**Appointed Members:**

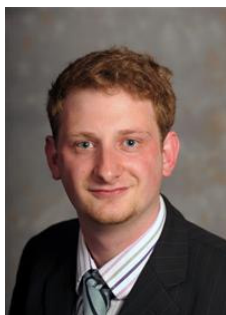
Mrs Urzula Topp, Church Representative

John Bettridge, Parent Governor Representative

Mr Tony Blackshaw, Church Representative

# Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel

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**Councillor Vincenzo Capozzoli**

**Chair of Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 2011/12**

## **Panel Members**

Councillor Brian Parnell (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Asa Thorpe
Councillor Maureen Turner	Councillor Warwick Payne
Councillor Neil Fitzgerald	Councillor Edward Daunt

In 2011/12 the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel undertook the statutory health scrutiny function. It was another busy year as the changes to NHS services continued apace both locally and nationally. We have continued to work closely with local health services including Southampton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Southampton Hampshire Isle of Wight and Portsmouth (SHIP) PCT Cluster, University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust, Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust and Solent NHS Trust, as well as the Southampton Link and neighbouring Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees' (HOSC's) in scrutinising these changes. We also worked closely with the Executive and officers of the Council in relation to Adult Social Care.

The Panel held 7 meetings during this period. Key highlights for the year included:

## **The changing health landscape**

The Panel scrutinised several of the changes taking place locally including those resulting from the Health and Social Care Act 2012. As well as continuing to work with the CCG as it develops the Panel considered several developments including:

- **Solent's NHS Trust status:** The Panel scrutinised and supported Solent's application for NHS Trust status and continues to work with them as they progress towards Foundation Trust status.
- **University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust:** The Panel scrutinised and supported Southampton University Hospitals who achieved Foundation Trust status during the year.
- **SHIP PCT Cluster:** The establishment of the SHIP PCT cluster was scrutinised by the Panel who raised issues about the terms of reference and the impact on local joint working.

The Panel also scrutinised the development of the Southampton Health and Well-Being Board and are continuing to scrutinise the development of Healthwatch.

## **Vascular Services Review**

The Panel scrutinised the review of vascular services in the South Central region. There has been close joint working with both LINK and the Hampshire HOSC on this issue as well as regular engagement with both the commissioners and providers. The Panel are continuing to scrutinise this issue and are keen to see a sustainable solution agreed.





## **Specialist Neurological Rehabilitation Services**

Following on from the work undertaken last year on this issue, the Panel continued to work with Southampton LINK to ensure neuro rehabilitation services are delivered in an appropriate setting. Together they undertook visits to the old, current and potential delivery sites and provided recommendations to the PCT and well as discussing the issues with commissioners at the Panel meeting. The Panel are pleased that this issue has now been resolved and the service is now fully delivered from the Western Hospital.

## **Adult Mental Health Services**

The Panel have worked closely with Southern Health Foundation Trust throughout the year regarding the changes made to Adult Mental Health Services in the area, including the change of use of 10 beds at Antelope House to accommodate patients from Abbott's Lodge.



*Antelope House Adult Mental Health Unit*

A Joint Hampshire and Southampton HOSCs meeting was arranged to consider the concerning Care Quality Commission inspection report on Antelope House and resulting action plan produce by Southern Health as the facility serves both authorities. The meeting was useful and the Panel are pleased that changes have taken place at the facility and it passed the follow-up inspection.

The bed changes have now taken place with no issues reported.

# Getting Involved

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## *How can I get involved?*

There are a number of ways in which the public and interested organisations can get involved.

- **Attend a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or a Scrutiny Panel**

Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee and Scrutiny Panel meetings are held in public and anyone is welcome to attend to listen to proceedings. Meetings are currently usually held in the Civic Centre. Only on rare occasions, when certain types of confidential information is being discussed, are members of the public not allowed to attend.

- Raise issues with your Councillor and request Overview & Scrutiny to consider as part of **Councillor Call for Action**
- Give your feedback to inquiry meetings as part of evidence gathering.

Details of forthcoming meetings, agendas, reports and minutes can be obtained from the City Council's website at [www.southampton.gov.uk](http://www.southampton.gov.uk).

## **Providing Written Evidence**

Scrutiny inquiries can consider written evidence and members of the public, community groups, or other key stakeholders can write in to bring evidence to the attention of Inquiry Panel members. Inevitably, scrutiny inquiries have only a limited amount of time, so they are not able to hear oral testimony from all interested people.

Written evidence provides an alternative way to receive evidence from key stakeholders—policy makers, service providers, service users and community groups. Written evidence may put forward a particular perspective of the issue being considered, or may highlight evidence to help the investigation. It can also put forward questions for witnesses, which may be taken up by members of the Panel during the discussion.

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