

# ***Report to Council***

***Date of meeting: 3 November 2009***

**Subject: Overview and Scrutiny report to Council – November 2009**

**Chairman: Councillor R Morgan**



---

## **Recommendation:**

**That the Overview and Scrutiny progress report from September 2009 to the present be noted.**

---

## **Report.**

### **Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 8 October 2009.**

1. At the meeting on 8 October, the Committee welcomed Ray Skinner, Community Commander from the Essex Fire and Rescue Service who gave a short talk on the current state of the fire and rescue service in Essex and particularly in and around our district. He then went on to answer various questions from the committee and other members present.
2. The Committee received a report and various background papers on the recent fires at Birchwood in Nazeing. Ray Skinner remained at the meeting to answer any technical question that arose.
3. The meeting also received an interim report from the current Pitt Review Task and Finish Panel requesting that Overview and Scrutiny recommend to the Cabinet that the out of hours land drainage service be continued at an estimated cost of £10,100 per annum. The report also requested that the Cabinet consider allocation of financial resources in 2011/12 budget to enable the assessment of compliance with the requirements of the Pitt Review and anticipated enactment of the Flood and Water Management Bill. The Committee, on consideration of the report, was happy to accept these recommendations and a report will be going to the Cabinet.
4. The Committee then went on to receive a report on the government consultation on the Housing Subsidy Review. The deadline for the response to the consultation was 27 October 2009. A summary had also appeared in the Members' Bulletin at the end of August. The Committee endorsed the draft submission on the consultation document and was to be submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government.
5. Health for North East London had written to the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny, Councillor Morgan, to invite our participation as a non-voting member on their Joint Committee of Primary Care Trusts. This meeting scheduled for 2 November 2009 was being convened to consider and participate in the formal decision making of a programme for a whole system change for improvements in the health care of North East London. Because of the short timescale the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could not refer this to full Council who would normally appoint a Council representative to an outside body. But considering the importance of having a representative at this meeting it was decided that if Councillor

Sandler, the Council's resident expert on this, was unavailable then Councillor Knapman (who also sits on the County Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee) would attend in his stead.

6. And finally, a plea was made for more nominations to the membership to the recently established Sustainable Communities Act Task and Finish Panel so that it could begin its business.