

# ***Report to Council***

***Date of meeting: 29 March 2011***

**Subject: Overview and Scrutiny report to Council –  
March 2011**

**Contact for further information: Councillor R Morgan**



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## **Recommendation:**

**That the Overview and Scrutiny progress report from February 2011 to the present be noted.**

## **Report.**

### **Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 28 February 2011.**

1. At the Committee's meeting on Monday, 28 February 2011 they received a presentation from David Vernazza, the officer charged with organising the Census for our region. He gave an interesting talk on the background, aims and objectives of the upcoming national census and put into context the practical, monetary, reasons it was important to get as many people to fill in the forms as possible.

2. The Committee also considered a call-in by five members, of a Cabinet decision (C-053-2010/11) regarding the discontinuance of the Town Centre Officer post. Unusually, the Chairman allowed the Chairman of the Debden Town Centre Partnership to speak and give his views on this proposal. After an interesting debate the Committee decided not to support the call-in and to confirm the Cabinet's decision, which could then be actioned.

3. They then considered a report from a call-in that was received last April on the restrictive covenant at 35 Denny Avenue, Waltham Abbey. This was left so that the Housing Portfolio Holder would further consider and review his decision once the Planning appeal had been determined. He would bring the issue back to an O&S meeting along with appropriate legal advice prior to making a final decision. After receiving the appropriate legal advice and debating the matter again, the committee agreed that the Portfolio Holder would only agree to vary the covenant when the conditions set by the Planning Inspector had been complied with. It had also been agreed that any revised decision made would be published in the Members' Bulletin.

4. The Committee then received three reports from the Constitution and Member Services Standing Panel; one was for appointments to be made to the Annual Council meeting by the introduction of an Appointments Panel. However, most of the Committee were dissatisfied with the recommendation that new members be required to make their declaration at the annual meeting and thought this would prolong the meeting unnecessarily. They agreed to change this to just receiving a handshake from the Chairman. However, a minority of the Committee disagreed and said they would submit a minority report to council, supporting the original recommendation.

5. The second report was about the protocols for Statutory Officers and their

relationships with the Council. These recommendations were agreed subject to the Monitoring Officer and the Legal and Estates Portfolio Holder holding clarification talks on the background to these recommendations.

6. The third and last report was on Member Accountability Statements and this was agreed without amendment.

7. Finally, the Committee received a short report on the state of wireless broadband within the district. They agreed that they still needed an internet provider to come to one of their meetings to provide an update on the roll out of reliable broadband connectivity for the rural areas of our district. This would be arranged for the new municipal year.