

Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator's Foreword

Once again it has been a busy year for the Overview and Scrutiny Board, as can be seen from the following report. As always we have taken a leading role in scrutinising the Elected Mayor's Budget. I am pleased to say he listened to our recommendations this year and took them all into account and accepted them before setting the budget. In addition to the budget, the Board has investigated a number of issues and I believe has made a difference in some of the key decisions made by the Mayor and Council.

I would like to thank all the officers at the Town Hall for their help and assistance during our busy year. In particular I would like to thank Kate Spencer on behalf of the Board for her help, dedication and assistance throughout the year.

Thanks must also go to all the Members of the Board, they have all taken an active role and played their part in the work of overview and scrutiny. Three Members have left the Board during the past year – Cllrs Alan Tyerman, Anna Tolchard and Jackie Stockman. A big thank you to Cllr Stockman who was my Vice Chairman and has been a long standing member of the Board. We welcome Cllr Steve Darling back as Vice Chairman and Cllr Lynn Sykes as a new member of the Board.

The coming year will be a difficult one for overview and scrutiny as there will be some major issues coming before the Board. Not least the annual budget which gets harder as each year goes by. I am sure all Members of the Board will play their part as they have done this year.