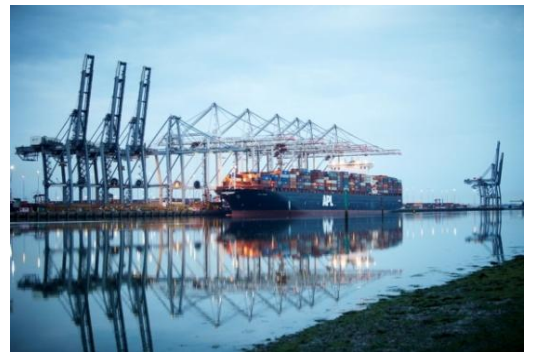
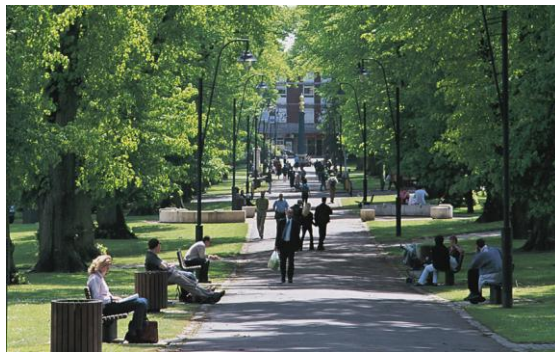


SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15



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Chair's Introduction



Councillor Jeremy Moulton Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee – (OSMC) 2014/15

In 2014/15, following the publication of the Ofsted inspection we reviewed arrangements for the scrutiny of children's services. To enable more regular and rigorous scrutiny we established a dedicated panel to scrutinise services for children and families in Southampton. The Panel had its first meeting in February and will meet bi-monthly ensuring appropriate challenge in this vital area.

This reconfiguration will enable the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP) to focus on scrutinising the significant changes and performance issues within health and social care that continue to require effective oversight.

The HOSP has been exceptionally busy this year challenging performance in areas such as Accident and Emergency waiting times, delayed transfers of care in the city, as well as overseeing the introduction of the Better Care Fund and the Care Act. In addition the HOSP completed an inquiry into homelessness and health, the vast majority of the recommendations within the report were approved by Cabinet in January 2015.

Members of HOSP were also invited to attend meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) to discuss proposed changes to Adult Social Care in the city. Two of these decisions, the future of the respite service for adults with learning disabilities, and the future of day services in Southampton, were called-In by the OSMC in January 2015 following lengthy deliberations with the Cabinet Member and stakeholders. This was the first time a decision has been Called-In since February 2013.

The Scrutiny Inquiry Panel completed an inquiry into the important issue of Air Quality in Southampton. I welcome the recommendations within the report and look forward to reviewing the Executive's response to the recommendations later in 2015. It was encouraging to see social media being used by the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel to engage with residents. Scrutiny needs to build on this initiative and explore how social media can be utilised effectively in the future.

Demonstrating the strength of the scrutiny inquiry process the Council received a commendation at the 2014 Centre for Public Scrutiny - Good Scrutiny Awards, for the Apprenticeships Review undertaken in 2013. The judging panel praised our approach to engaging service users and the identification of new ways of working to transform the approach to apprenticeships.

Funding pressures and significant changes to local public services will ensure that the relevance and value of effective scrutiny continues to grow in 2015/16. If public scrutiny is to make a meaningful contribution to helping decision makers meet the difficult challenges they face scrutiny members must continue to be willing to question and decision makers must be willing to listen and provide answers.

I am grateful to members of the various scrutiny panels for their hard work and contributions throughout the year. I am also grateful to all the various local groups, national organisations and individuals who have attended, made presentations and provided evidence at the various scrutiny meetings, and to Council officers and Cabinet Members for their attendance.

The Purpose and Functions of Overview & Scrutiny

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 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 of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee is appointed for the municipal year at the Annual Council meeting in May.

There are a number of Scrutiny Panels that support the work of the Executive and the Council as a whole. The Scrutiny Inquiry Panel carries out a 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 statutory scrutiny of the operation of health and adult social care agencies in Southampton, and the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel scrutinises services for children and families in the city, including education.

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 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Scrutiny Panels 2014/15

- Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel
- Children and Families Scrutiny Panel
- Scrutiny Inquiry Panel

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Councillor Jeremy Moulton

Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee - 2014/15

Committee Members (April 2015)

Councillor John Hannides (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Hannah Coombs
Councillor Daniel Fitzhenry
Councillor Eamonn Keogh
Councillor Keith Morrell

Councillor Dr Darren Paffey
Councillor Matthew Stevens
Councillor Asa Thorpe
Councillor Ivan White

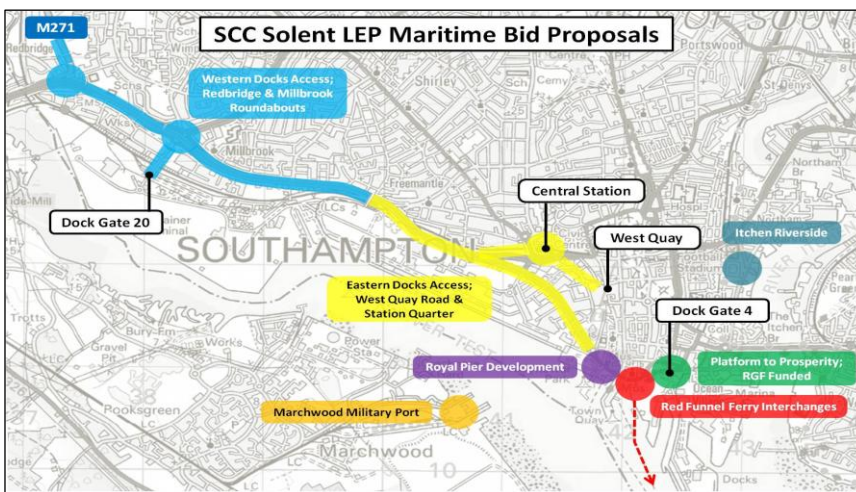
Appointed Members:

Mrs Urszula Topp, Church Representative

Revd Jeff Williams, Church Representative

Strategic Focus

On a number of occasions in 2014/15 the Committee changed its focus from scrutinising the Forward Plan to discussing longer term strategic issues that will have a significant impact on the future of the city. With the anticipated economic and population growth of Southampton in mind, meetings of the OSMC were dedicated to discussing the 15 year vision for transport in Southampton and the scope and approach being taken as the Council prepares to review the Local Plan.



Transport, planning and transformation provided the Committee with a sizeable percentage of its agenda items in 2014/15 as the Committee continued to scrutinise the Executive, holding them to account for decisions planned and implemented as well as acting as a sounding board assisting in the development of key Council policies.

Transport - As well as the wider discussion on the longer term transport plans for Southampton the Committee questioned the Cabinet Member on the Residents Parking Policy, Northam Bridge works and 20mph zones in Southampton.

Planning – Whilst the Committee commenced dialogue with the Leader on the type of place it wants the city to be up to 2036, discussions also took place on more immediate planning issues. The revised Planning Enforcement Policy, betting shops, pay day loan premises and fast food outlets, and the Cabinet response to the scrutiny inquiry on maintaining balanced neighbourhoods through planning were considered by the OSMC in 2014/15.

Transformation - Oversight of the Council's transformation activity continues to be a priority of the OSMC. The Committee were pleased to receive some details in January 2015 of the projected

savings, and timescales against the transformation projects and work-streams, that we had initially requested in 2014.

A robust discussion on the future transformation of the Southampton Library Service took place in November 2014. It is anticipated that, given the financial significance and levels of local interest, transformation, including the implementation of the new operating model and the Library Service proposals, will feature on future OSMC agendas in 2015/16.



Call In

In January 2015 the OSMC called-in two Adult Social Care decisions on the future of the respite service for adults with learning disabilities and the future of day services in Southampton. My thanks to all the advocacy groups, relatives, staff and carers that attended the various discussions on these issues and spoke passionately on this emotive subject.

OSMC made a number of recommendations, including the recommendation that Cabinet reconsiders both decisions and defers them until all assessments with service users and carers have been completed. Whilst Cabinet re-confirmed their original decision I am pleased that Cabinet agreed that no service will be closed or withdrawn until all assessments have been completed and individuals with eligible social care needs have been supported to move to suitable alternatives.

There has been no use of the Councillor Call for Action procedure this year.

Scrutiny of the Southampton Safe City Partnership



The Committee took the opportunity on two occasions to discuss community safety issues in 2014/15. In June the OSMC discussed with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Safe City Partnership

the findings from the LGA Community Safety Peer Review, whilst November's meeting included scrutiny of the Safe City Partnership Strategy and Youth Justice Strategy.

The Committee welcomed the year on year reduction in recorded crime in Southampton and challenged the Partnership to improve the city's comparative position that had either worsened, or not improved, for all major categories of crimes, with the exception of ASB.



Looking ahead

Moving forward the OSMC must continue to discuss issues in public that resonate with local people; make sure that the Committee focusses on value for money and the delivery of planned outcomes; and is prepared to respond to the new forms of public governance and the prospect of greater devolution to ensure that appropriate mechanisms are in place to hold decision makers to account.

Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel



Councillor Matthew Stevens

Chair of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 2014/15

Panel Members (April 2015)

Councillor Ivan White (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Sarah Bogle

Councillor Matthew Claisse

Councillor Sharon Mintoff

Councillor John Noon

Councillor Brian Parnell

It has been an eventful year for the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel. The agendas for our seven meetings have been full and varied.

UHS A&E Performance

After 18 months of missing targets in the University Hospital Southampton Trust Emergency Department the Panel put the issue as number one on its agenda. We reviewed the plans in place to improve the performance and maintained a continued dialogue. The Panel has been impressed by the whole system approach that has been adopted to turn things around. However, amelioration of the current system will not achieve results on its own. An innovative solution is needed if a step change in both performance and culture in the Emergency Department is to be achieved that matches the high quality care it provides. However a small slice of emergency/extra funding to the UHS trust has been used wisely in improving services.

HOSP Inquiry

The inquiry into the Impact of Homelessness and Poor Housing on the Health of Single People was reported to the Health and Well Being Board and Cabinet in September 2014. The four main areas for improvement and recommendations identified by the Panel included ensuring a strategic city-wide approach to homelessness; raising awareness and recognition of homelessness issues; protecting valued services; improving service delivery and monitoring and reviewing critical services. The 20 recommendations, accepted in whole or part by Cabinet, are already being actioned by the Homelessness Strategy Steering Group and other partners.



Bitterne Walk-In Centre

My second year as Chair of the Panel, and final year as a city councillor, saw the chairing of one of most controversial and difficult meetings in my experience as a councillor about proposed changes to the Bitterne Walk-in Service. The Southampton Clinical Commissioning Group proposed changes to the walk-in service at the Bitterne Health Centre to divert funding to community nursing and GP's in Itchen. They hoped this would provide an 'out of hours' service, more targeted help, enable earlier intervention and prevention and improve access to GP's. The

politicisation of the meeting by a number of interested parties resulted in a reduced pilot of the community nursing service being offered with the full consultation being delayed until after the general election. The future proposals and outcomes from the consultation, based on a detailed assessment of the alternative options, will return to the Panel in the year.

Vascular Services

The Panel also considered NHS England's proposal to reconfigure vascular services to create a centralised service at the University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust. These proposals, which have been discussed for over 2 years, were further protracted by a frustrating consultation, which led to new delivery option of a Network Model across Southampton and Portsmouth hospitals being proposed. A clear decision is yet to be made with another business case due at the end of May 2015. At the Southampton HOSPs recommendation the Chairs of the Southampton, Hampshire, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight scrutiny panels will meet informally, to discuss the next steps in the delivery of this particular service, before they are presented to the Panels. It is hoped that this will smooth the way for a final decision to be made as early as possible.

The need to reduce health and wellbeing spend and be more efficient, despite increasing demand and lack of supply of qualified health staff for Southampton, has created difficulties for all providers in some guise. The Panel feel that providers have done their best this year in difficult circumstances.

Better Care Plan

The Panel monitored the Southampton Better Care Plan (a plan with no extra funding attached), as it developed. The Plan is aimed at achieving more effective early intervention and less visits to the health care provision in the city. Implementation will take time, however, the Panel supports the progress made to develop a joined-up services that puts patients at the centre of their care and deliver a community based 24/7 service. The Panel will continue to monitor outcomes to reduce pressure on a service where demand will otherwise continue to grow.

Mental Health

A particular success for the Panel this year was its push for a review of mental health services in the city, an issue that was repeatedly raised at Panel meetings and during the Homelessness Inquiry. A mental health round table event was held in December which included over one hundred service providers, commissioners and users. The event was the start of a conversation around re-commissioning mental health services across the city and the Panel will need to ensure that the proposals for change meet the needs of the city, particularly to maximise early intervention and ensure parity of esteem for people with mental health conditions

The Panel has had limited opportunity to scrutinise the success of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy or examine issues raised by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. A future Panel must tackle these issues.

Last but not least, the strength of health scrutiny in the last year has been its independence and challenging scrutiny of health providers in the city. This has been helped by ensuring that meetings last no longer than two hours and allowing providers and the public to ask questions at meetings. However, after HOSP took on children's safeguarding in 2014 the Ofsted report

highlighted the lack of scrutiny as an issue; the scrutiny of health in the city will potentially be compromised if the health scrutiny function is merged with another scrutiny panel.

Thank you to the support officers without whom the accurate and effective analysis of the issues would not have happened and very special thank you to John Richards, Chief Officer at NHS Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group, who provided invaluable insights and training to the Panel.

Children and Families Scrutiny Panel



Councillor Eamonn Keogh

Chair of the Children and Families Scrutiny Panel– 2014/15

Panel Members (April 2015)

Councillor Catherine McEwing
Councillor Keith Morrell
Councillor Paul O'Neill

Councillor Dr Darren Paffey
Councillor Bob Painton
Councillor Matt Tucker

Appointed Members – Church Representatives

Mrs Urszula Topp

Revd Jeff Williams

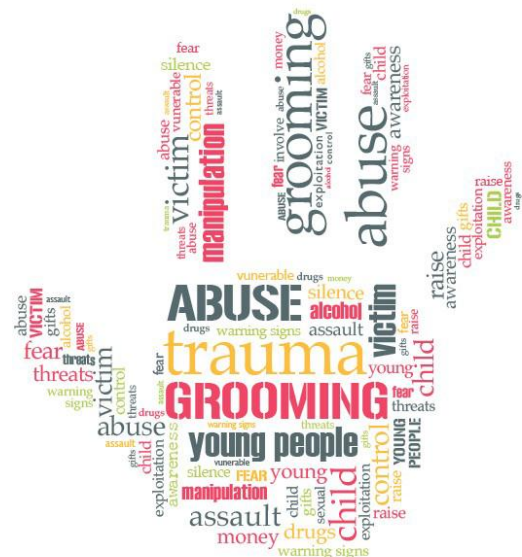
At the meeting on 16th October 2014 the OSMC agreed to establish a Children and Families Scrutiny Panel to provide robust scrutiny of services to children and families in Southampton.

This decision followed the recommendation within the Ofsted inspection report of Children's Services in Southampton that the Council: *'Develop the role of scrutiny within the City to ensure that the wider multi-agency arrangements for the provision of early help and services to children and their families from children's social care, are routinely considered by political leaders.'*

The terms of reference for the Panel reflects the broad range of services provided and includes scrutiny of the MASH, Early Help, Specialist & Core Services, looked after children, education and early years, youth offending services as well as multi-agency arrangements. Regular attendance at the meetings is expected from partners including representatives from the police, health agencies and education.

The first of the bi-monthly meetings of the Panel was held in February 2015. This meeting provided the Panel with an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the service area and the key issues and pressures.

2015/16 promises to be a busy year for the new Panel as it seeks to perform a key role in improving outcomes for children and young people in Southampton.



The Panel will be provided with appropriate monthly performance information to enable informed scrutiny. Provisional agendas for the next 3 meetings have been set. Agenda items include implementing the Ofsted action plan, learning from Serious Case Review findings, school standards, child sexual exploitation and outcomes for care leavers.

Scrutiny Inquiry Panel



Councillor Christopher Hammond
Chair of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel – 2014/15

Panel Members (April 2015)

Councillor Catherine McEwing (Vice Chair)	Councillor Mary Lloyd
Councillor Hannah Coombs	Councillor Paul O'Neill
Councillor Steven Galton	Councillor Brian Parnell

Air Quality Inquiry

Every year in the UK it is estimated that 29,000 premature deaths are caused by poor air quality. Air pollution and its associated effects on society cost England £10 billion per year. This is expected to rise in future years as the number of cars on the road increases.

Data published by Public Health England suggest that in Southampton 6.2% of deaths in 2010 were attributable to air pollution, with long-term exposure contributing 110 deaths amongst those aged 25 years and over 1,280 life years lost. In addition in May 2014, the World Health Organisation (WHO) published an update of its Ambient Air Pollution in Cities report, which named Southampton as one of the worst cities in the UK to be breaching air pollution safety guidelines (specifically for PM 10 – particulate matter).

Given the information above, the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel was asked by the OSMC to undertake a review of Air Quality in Southampton with four key objectives:

1. To increase understanding of air quality issues within Southampton
2. To examine the causes and impacts of air pollution
3. To understand the actions being taken to reduce air pollution in Southampton
4. Learning from best practise, to identify ways of improving air quality in the city now and for future generations.

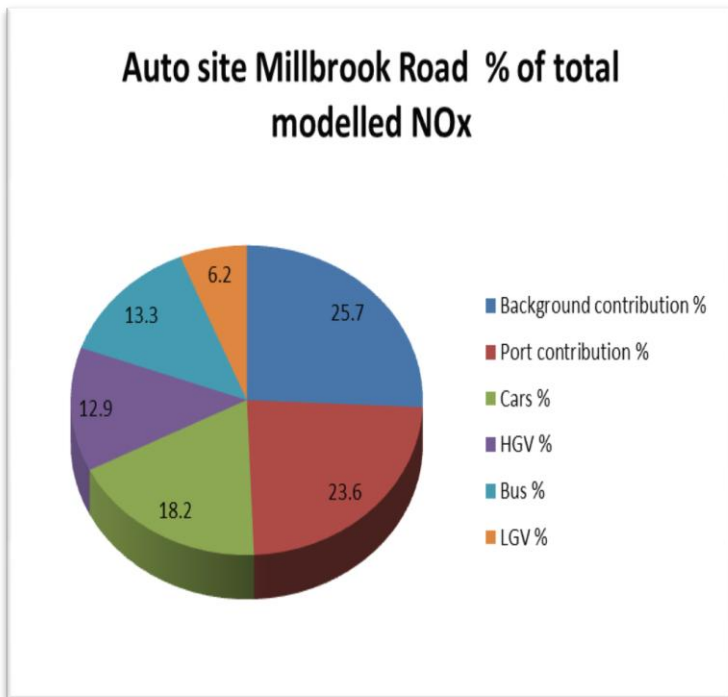
Consultation

The Scrutiny Panel undertook the inquiry over 6 evidence gathering meetings and received information from a wide variety of organisations to meet the agreed objectives. This included experts in public health, air quality, representatives from transport providers, key business partners in the city as well as council officers. In addition just under 300 residents responded via social media to our survey about air quality in the city, demonstrating the importance of this issue.

Findings

Throughout the inquiry we found evidence of good schemes initiated by the Council such as; My Journey, Air Alert Service and the Gyrodrive 'fly-wheel' technology. Our partners have also made positive steps to lessen the environmental impact of their activities. The bus companies have introduced telematic computers to help operators drive the buses more efficiently and cutting out the engine to reduce vehicle idling. DP World has a strict booking system for HGV's which are given a dedicated time slot to reduce vehicles waiting around.

These are all positive first steps, but that is all they are. It won't make the kind of difference that we need to tackle some of the problems outlined above.



We are going to have more vehicles on our roads and although the fleet is gradually being greened, there is still a preference for harmful diesel engines.

To tackle and improve the quality of air in our city will be an enormous challenge that cannot be achieved through working in isolation. We are an industrial maritime port city with a rich history, but we need to become a low emission city, which puts sustainability at the heart of everything we do. This is not at odds with having a thriving local economy.

Southampton can and must do more, taking advantage of the opportunities available, to improve air quality in the city.

Recommendations

The final report contains 20 recommendations in total which if implemented the Panel believe will help improve air quality in Southampton now and for future generations. The recommendations were grouped under the following key themes:

- Building on success – Ambition and vision
- Leading by example
- Traffic
- Partnership Working
- Communications

Independent experts told us that planting certain types of trees, green walls and foliage is the cheapest and most effective way to reduce air pollution. We need to make sure we are planting the right types of trees, but also make sure we tie this to an educational programme in schools, so that our youngest citizens understand the importance of the environment.

The Panel recognised that we need to continue to promote modal shift and that our residents need to play their part. We appreciate that this is not an easy thing to do, but it's imperative that we are

proactive to stop gridlock and the deterioration in our already polluted air. Residents told us that Southampton isn't a good city to cycle in. This needs to change.

We all need to play our part and work in partnership, otherwise the situation won't change enough. The fact remains; we are breathing in polluted air everyday and it's killing us.

Cabinet

The [Air Quality](#) Inquiry report was presented to Cabinet in April 2015. A response to the recommendations from Cabinet is expected at the July 2015 meeting.

Getting Involved

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 & Scrutiny Management Committee or a Scrutiny Panel.**
All scrutiny 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 and 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.

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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