

WESTMINSTER SCRUTINY COMMISSION **26th April 2010**

POLICY AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The annual report is part of the yearly work of the Policy and Scrutiny Commission offering an opportunity to review the work undertaken and assess the impact that scrutiny has had.
- 1.2 Under direction from the Commission officers have been collating the work of the committees and investigating the outcomes of scrutiny investigations.

2. The Thinking behind the Report

- 2.1 This year's report represents a change from what has occurred in the past. The annual report has developed gradually over the years from first being a general note to a more formal publication. This report, currently a working draft, represents an attempt to try something different by taking a fresh look at how the scope of scrutiny topics and their impact are assessed.
- 2.2 In developing the report the focus has been to show where scrutiny has contributed to positive service improvements by Westminster City Council and partners as well as increased resident engagement. For this reason the report highlights outcomes and tries to convey what can sometimes be abstract policy issues in more everyday language.
- 2.3 In looking at issues each committee has tracked, monitored, advised and/or made recommendations for further action or campaigns. The committees have sought to track progress made on their recommendations. These have been forwarded to officials, cabinet members, full cabinet and partner organisations. The results have been variable and are being continually developed.
- 2.4 Given the tough economic climate and pressures on council spending the report also represents an attempt to develop a more web-friendly style to improve ease of use. For this reason, the report is presented in landscape to better fit a computer screen and makes use of interactive labels, which take you straight to the pages you want to see rather than making you scroll through the whole document. Of course, it is recognised that some people will still want to print it out, which is why the report has been put together as an interactive pdf document rather than a webpage.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 As some committees have only recently held their final meetings of the year, there remains some content to be filled in and chased up.

- 3.2 However, Members are welcomed to comment on the style and content of the annual report as well as the work of their committees over the last year.

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