OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

17th May 2004

PRESENT:-

Labour Group
Councillor Bell (Chair) and Councillor Murphy.

Conservative Group
Councillor Hood (Vice-Chair) and Councillor Bale.

OV/26. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd February 2004 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

OV/27. **REPORT OF MEMBER**

Councillor Bell reported on the attendance of the Chair of the Finance and Management Committee at the Meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee held on 29th March 2004 in connection with the report on budget proposals.

OV/28. **REPORTS OF THE COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

Councillor Hood outlined those issues considered by the Community Scrutiny Committee at its Meeting held on 4th May 2004. The Committee had considered a draft version of the Annual Report, discussed the car parking study and had been updated on the progress of the South Derbyshire Community Strategy. With reference to the car parking study, Councillor Bell queried the next stage of the process. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that the study needed to be progressed through a policy committee and it was noted that the Chair of the Community Scrutiny Committee would be discussing this matter further with the Chair of Environmental and Development Services Committee.

Councillor Bell reported on the issues considered by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee at its Meeting on 10th May 2004. Customer First had been discussed in detail, including a visit to the Call Centre. Other items considered were E-Government, the Draft Annual Report and the Work Programme.

OV/29. **ANNUAL REPORT**

The Policy and Best Value Manager circulated a second draft version of the Annual Report for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. This report was to be finalised by the end of June 2004, in order to be considered at the Council Meeting on 1st July 2004. The proposed layout of the report was discussed and it was suggested that photographs of items and events associated with work undertaken by Scrutiny Committees could be incorporated in the report. Councillor Murphy suggested that in order to raise the profile of the scrutiny function, the report should be distributed as widely as possible. He

also suggested that a foreword be included with contribution from the Scrutiny Committee Chairs and a senior Officer.

It was suggested that a meeting of new scrutiny Members be arranged to discuss arrangements for scrutiny and to plan for the year ahead. The date would be arranged following the appointment of Members to the Scrutiny Committees at the Annual Council Meeting on 20th May 2004.

OV/30. **COUNCILLOR R.L. BELL**

Councillor Bell concluded the Meeting by informing Members that he would no longer be standing as a scrutiny Member. He thanked Members and Officers for their work and support during the previous three years and Councillor Hood paid tribute to Councillor Bell for his dedicated service since the introduction of the scrutiny function. These sentiments were echoed by the Deputy Chief Executive on behalf of the officers involved in the scrutiny process.

R. L. BELL

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 4.45 p.m.