

**Annual Review of Scrutiny by the
Council's Scrutiny Co-ordinator for 2015/16**

I am pleased to provide this brief overview of scrutiny activity at Halton Borough Council for 2015/16 and to commend to you the individual Annual Reports of each Policy & Performance Board (PPB). These reports provide many examples of the excellent work our PPB's do in holding the Executive to account, developing policy and reviewing performance. The detailed work done through the individual topic groups makes a significant contribution to developing new approaches and new ways of working to many of our activities.

The PPB meetings that took place over the last Municipal Year covered issues ranging from reviewing services and financial performance, undertaking pre-scrutiny of items in advance of Executive Board consideration and the development of recommendations to the Executive Board through the Topic Group work each PPB engages in.

It is very clear to me that where pre-scrutiny takes place the added value provided by our PPB's is very much appreciated by Executive Board colleagues.

The involvement of PPB Chairs in the Budget Working Party has continued to ensure that PPB views and concerns are well represented in the budget process. A process that, as all members are well aware of, is getting more and more challenging each year. PPB involvement in focusing and reviewing the Council's priorities will remain an extremely important role.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Chairs' Group for the support they have provided me in carrying out the role of Scrutiny Co-ordinator over the past 12 months.

Cllr Tony McDermott
Scrutiny Co-ordinator