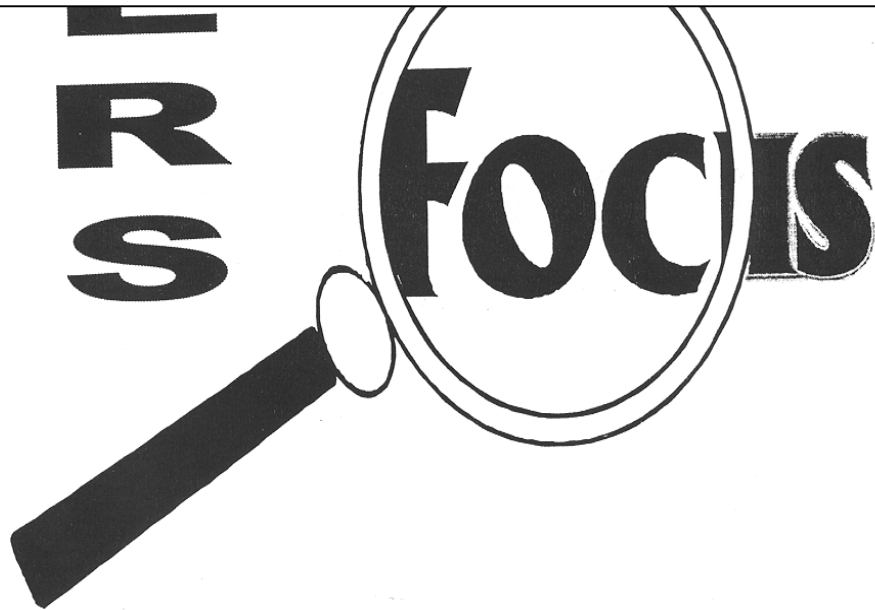


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*Members' Focus is available on-line at [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk)  
- Choose "Council & Democracy" from the menu on the left,  
then "Members Focus".*

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**Focus**

**June 2006**

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

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# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: All

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: **Help People to Feel Safe and Well**

SUBJECT: Children's Activity Days 2006	CONTACT OFFICER: Kryshia Fuller, Leisure Development Officer
TEL/EMAIL No.: 01376 551414 ext 2313 kryshia.fuller@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
<p data-bbox="236 555 475 584">INFORMATION:</p> <p data-bbox="236 629 1401 734">The purpose of this briefing is to advise members of the activities that the Leisure Development Team will be organizing during the 2006 Summer Holidays. The activities will include Activity Days, Athletic Camps, Basket Ball Camps and Cricket Camps.</p> <p data-bbox="236 779 1401 920">Children's Activity Day Camps cost £5 per day and are for young people aged 5 – 11 will be held in partnership with 27 Parishes across the District. All Parish Councils have been invited to host an Activity Camp in their Parish and a full list of parishes that will be taking part can be obtained on request.</p> <p data-bbox="236 965 1401 1070">735 children attended the Activity Day Camps last year taking part in team games, karaoke, face painting and general art &amp; craft activities. This year we have the capacity to take 1320 young people</p> <p data-bbox="236 1115 1401 1294">For the first time last year Athletic Day Camps were held for girls and boys aged 10-14. 30 young people participated over the 2 days and due to the success of the event an extra 2 days are planned for 2006 with the potential to accommodate 60 young people who will have the opportunity to try out a variety of disciplines including sprinting, high jump, long jump, discus and javelin.</p> <p data-bbox="236 1339 1401 1444">For the first time this year we will be organizing 2 basketball taster days. These will be taking place at Notley Sports Centre and the Honeywood School. As with the Athletics Camps if these are successful they will be expanded next year.</p> <p data-bbox="236 1489 1401 1668">The popular Cricket Day Camps will be held in partnership with the following cricket clubs; Coggeshall, Kelvedon &amp; Feering and Gestingthorpe. Arrangements with Braintree and Halstead Cricket Camps are still being finalized. It is anticipated that approximately 120 children aged 7 – 11 will have the opportunity to take part. The Athletic, Cricket and Basket ball camps all cost £14 per child per day.</p> <p data-bbox="236 1713 1401 1892">In total 1,500 children can take part in activities delivered by the Leisure Development Team. More importantly, each child taking part will be encouraged to try new experiences from craft to specific sporting disciplines in a fun, safe and supportive environment. It is hoped that these new experiences may encourage them to develop their skills, try a new sport or simply come back again for more fun next year.</p>	

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: CORPORATE

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: Capital Determinations 2005/06	CONTACT OFFICER: Steve Tate														
TEL/EMAIL No.: 01376 551414 Ext.2812 <a href="mailto:steve.tate@braintree.gov.uk">steve.tate@braintree.gov.uk</a>	BACKGROUND PAPERS: Accountancy Closedown Files 2005/06														
INFORMATION:															
<p>Part IV of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires the Director of Finance to notify Members of the methods used to finance the Authority's capital expenditure and the amounts charged to revenue accounts for repayment of debt. The determinations which follow, have been made by the Director of Finance under delegated authority.</p> <p>Total Expenditure of £14,865,409, has been capitalised and funded as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>Usable Capital Receipts -</td><td>£5,859,304</td></tr><tr><td>Specified Capital Grant -</td><td>£190,262</td></tr><tr><td>Supported Borrowing -</td><td>£801,834</td></tr><tr><td>Contribution from Third Parties -</td><td>£557,145</td></tr><tr><td>Revenue (including Reserves) -</td><td>£1,669,000</td></tr><tr><td>Major Repairs Allowance -</td><td>£5,217,937</td></tr><tr><td>Contributions from Lottery/other Govt Grants -</td><td>£569,927</td></tr></table> <p>Supported borrowing is a notional sum, which attracts financial support from the Government, although in practice, the Council used its cash balances instead of actually borrowing.</p> <p>The minimum revenue provision (for repayment of external loans) was nil and so nothing was charged to the revenue accounts of the Authority.</p>		Usable Capital Receipts -	£5,859,304	Specified Capital Grant -	£190,262	Supported Borrowing -	£801,834	Contribution from Third Parties -	£557,145	Revenue (including Reserves) -	£1,669,000	Major Repairs Allowance -	£5,217,937	Contributions from Lottery/other Govt Grants -	£569,927
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# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

### Walking scheme celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Page 1 of 1

A walking scheme that started ten years ago to improve the health & well being of the people taking part celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in June 2006.

The Walking for Well Being Scheme was started by Lotte Sherman, a Practice Nurse in Halstead, but when Lotte retired in the Summer of 2000 she feared that the scheme would not continue. She approached Braintree District Council's Leisure Development Team who were delighted to take responsibility of the Scheme. Since then the Scheme has gone from strength to strength and now attracts approximately 35 walkers every week.

**Cabinet Member Councillor Wendy Schmitt said,** "The success of the walking scheme is a fantastic achievement. We really make a difference by providing opportunities for people to get active and keep active. We couldn't do it without the dedication and support from our Volunteer Walk Leaders who give up their time to lead the walks every week"

Walks take place at a different location every week and last between 2 – 5 miles. On 7<sup>th</sup> June there will be a special walk to celebrate the Anniversary with a 5 mile walk in the morning and a 5 mile walk in the afternoon. Both walks start from The Cherry Tree PH in Knowle Green and there will be a break for lunch between the walks.

For a list of walks and starting points see the Council's website

<http://www.braintree.gov.uk/Braintree/leisure/walks/default.htm> or email

[walking@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:walking@braintree.gov.uk) or telephone Kryshia Fuller 01376 551414 – just say the name.

ENDS

Photo opportunity – **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 10.00am, Cherry Tree PH, Knowle Green, Nr Gt Yeldham. Before attending please call Kryshia Fuller 01376 551414, just say the name.**

For more press information or enquiries contact: Kryshia Fuller, Leisure Development Officer, 01376 551414 – just say the name.

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 24 May 2006

## News

### **The Big Recycle comes to the high street**

Page 1 of 1

**During the Big Recycle week**, staff from Braintree District Council will be visiting Braintree, Witham and Halstead town centres with the recycling information trailer to answer people's questions about recycling.

The visits are supporting the national Big Recycle campaign, encouraging greater participation by residents.

**The visits offer an opportunity** for people to ask about different household materials and to get advice on any difficulties which they may have.

This year's topical campaign theme is football. Whether at home or at a match, the food and drink packaging which fans discard can amount to tonnes of waste which could be recycled.

**The recycling information trailers** will visit at these times:

Wednesday 7th June - George Yard, Braintree (9 - 4pm)

Thursday 8th June - Grove Shopping Centre, Witham (10.30 – 3pm)

Friday 9th June - Weavers Court, Halstead (8.30 – 1.30pm)

**Councillor Michael Gage** is responsible for environment at Braintree District Council. He says: "I'm a fan of football and while I'm proud of my local team as well as the national team, I know that a football match can produce tonnes of waste. We need to recycle more and more, and every football fan can help."

**ENDS**

**For more information contact: Ros Alam (01376) 551414** - just say the name

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 30 May 2006

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

### Start on site for new Braintree swimming pool

Page 1 of 1

**On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May**, Council Chairman David Finch, councillors and the project team met to celebrate the start on site of the new Braintree swimming pool, with project funding partners Braintree Freeport and future managers of the new pool, DC Leisure.

Jackson Construction have set out and fenced the new site and are preparing to begin the 66 week construction schedule, leading to the opening of the pool in summer 2007. The location is at one side of the main car park, opposite Cineworld off Charter Way / Millennium Way at the Freeport Designer shopping village.

The £7.2 million (build plus design costs) 25m x 8 lane pool, will also have a training pool and seating for 300 spectators for regional events. Braintree Freeport will provide the site at a peppercorn rent, plus up to £2.5m contribution for construction. All other costs will be met by Braintree District Council.

**Cabinet member Wendy Schmitt** comments,

"The valuable experience gained from building the new pool at Halstead is being used and further enhanced with the excellent design of the new Braintree pool. The 300 seat spectator area will bring the Braintree pool up to regional competition standards making it even more attractive for competitions and events. Jackson Construction did a superb job in Halstead and we are looking forward to an equally impressive operation at Freeport."

ENDS

For more press information, contact: Chris Trim (01376) 557752

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 19 May 2006

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

# News

## Changes to concessionary fares

Page 1 of 2

**Braintree District Council has upgraded its current half-fare off-peak bus pass scheme** and can now offer a free bus pass for all residents aged 60 and over, or with certain disabilities, which entitles the holder to free travel anywhere in Essex. Braintree Council has introduced this improvement as part of a countywide initiative and, thanks to a Government grant, is able to do so without any extra cost to council taxpayers.

Before the start of this initiative in April 2006, there were 5,500 bus passes in circulation, almost two months on Braintree Council now has 8,500 passes in circulation.

Residents living near the northern edge of the district can now use their bus passes 'over the border' in neighbouring parts of Suffolk. In effect the Essex border has been extended to improve the service for those in the rural north of the Braintree District and now allows Essex Travel Pass holders to travel from a number of bus stops in Suffolk, namely those in Stoke by Clare, Clare, Cavendish, Long Melford, Ballington and Bures.

**Mr Mealand, a resident from Braintree comments:** "I am a very independent 86 year old who takes care of myself and likes to get out and about. Thanks to this new bus pass I am saving £20 a week now that I no longer need to travel by taxi."

**Betty Morrison from Silver End adds** "I would like to thank Braintree Council for sorting out my bus pass. I really appreciate the help it gives me on my visits to the hospital."

**Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Transportation, Councillor Nigel Harley comments:** "This is such good news for thousands of residents and their families throughout the whole district and especially people who live near the borders of the district. I'd encourage everyone over 60 to apply."

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## **ENDS**

For more press information, contact: Sarah Sherry - 01376 55 14 14

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 26 May 2006

The free bus pass isn't the only concessionary fare offered by Braintree District Council. Residents who are 60 years of age or over, or have a disability and are a permanent resident in the Braintree District, can choose between the following travel concessions each year.

**Travel Tokens** (at a cost of £15.00 for £40.00 worth of tokens that can be used to pay for most bus, taxi or rail fares.)

**Fare Paid Companion Pass** (at a cost of £34.00 to help people with certain disabling conditions who need a companion with them to enable them to travel).

# MEMBERS' FOCUS



**FootballFoundation**  
*football's biggest supporter*

## PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 9 May 2006

### FOOTBALL FOUNDATION AWARDS £1M GRANT FOR BRAINTREE'S BRAND NEW SPORTS CENTRE

Sport in Essex received another massive boost with the news that Braintree District Council has been awarded a huge £1 million grant from the Football Foundation, the UK's largest sports charity.

The figure is the highest that the Foundation gives out and will allow the council to provide a significant development of sport facilities at Spinks Lane in the Witham area of Essex. The project will be an integral part of football development in this expanding community.

With the help of Foundation funding, the council can now construct a floodlit sand-dressed artificial turf pitch (ATP), a pavilion comprising 12 changing rooms, official's rooms and a meeting/teaching room, along with associated car-parking. This will replace an existing antiquated pavilion and redgra pitch, and will be located adjacent to the John Bramston School, a secondary school with over 2,000 pupils. The new facilities will support activity on the seven grass pitches that are located on the site.

Whilst football is hugely popular in the area and will be the principal sport played on the ATP, the specification also allows for hockey to be played, as community interest for this has been firmly established. There is a large volume of existing users of the grass pitches who will benefit from access to a training facility and improved changing accommodation, and support and expressions of interest for new usage of the facility has been abundant.

The main aims of this project are to:

- Improve access to facilities for all users, including those with a disability and to enable the development of girls and women's football
- To enable accommodation of local and countrywide coach education programmes
- Enhancement of school links and curricular and extra curricular sports provision

June 2006

## **MEMBERS' FOCUS**

The Football Foundation is dedicated to revitalising the grass roots of the game, constructing modern football facilities, developing football as a force for social cohesion and as a vehicle for education in communities throughout the country. Funded by the FA Premier League, The Football Association, Sport England and the Government, the Football Foundation is the nation's largest sports charity with a £45m budget going straight into the heart of football.

Paul Thorogood, Chief Executive of the Football Foundation welcomed this latest funding boost:

*"We warmly congratulate Braintree District Council for their hard work and dedication in securing this award. Grass roots football is the lifeblood of the game in this country which is why it is vital that projects such as this now have the benefit of Foundation cash."*

Leader of Braintree District Council Graham Butland comments:  
*"This is great news for Witham and perfect timing for sports development in the town. It will be a top quality facility and will help encourage a new generation of sporting heroes as well boosting local clubs and sporting activity – adjacent to the new adult community college."*

**ENDS**

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

### Chewing gum 'spring clean' for town centres in District

Page 1 of 1

Discarded chewing gum could be set for a sticky end in Braintree district as the town centres are being given a spring clean by specialist contractors, working for the council to remove chewing gum during the next two weeks.

By using a mix of encouragement and enforcement throughout June, Braintree District Council is to run an awareness campaign to discourage people from throwing gum on the streets. In the programme there will be:

- Education activities for young people, through brownies and scouts groups
- Distribution of gum pouches and gum wraps
- Information trailer will visit town centres
- Enforcement – anyone seen dropping chewing gum risks an increased fine of £75

Councillor Michael Gage is responsible for the local Environment, and comments:

“Discarded chewing gum is unsightly and expensive to remove from the streets. By introducing gum pouches and gum wraps we aim to encourage people to dispose of their chewing gum in a much more responsible way”

“So remember to throw your gum in the bin to keep your streets clean or you could face a £75 fine.”

ENDS

#### Notes and photos:

1. **Over 28 million people**, almost half of the UK population regularly chew gum.
2. **It costs** Braintree District Council Tax payers £10,000 a year to clean gum from streets.

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

### Council and Surgery are walking the healthy way

Page 1 of 1

Braintree District Council's Leisure Development Team, in partnership with the Elizabeth Courtauld Surgery in Halstead, has launched new initiative to help improve resident's health. **Every Thursday at 10.00am** a health walk starts from the surgery in Factory Lane West and lasts for between 30 – 45 minutes. The walks are free of charge and anyone can join in, they don't have to be a patient at the surgery.

Walking is a proven way to aid weight loss, reduce blood pressure and cholesterol, as well as improve stamina. All of which are concerns for the medical professionals at the surgery.

**Margaret Blogg, a patient at the surgery**, joined the walks when her nurse recommended walking as a way to help control her diabetes. **Margaret said**, "I've enjoyed the walks more than I thought I would. Its been good to meet other people with diabetes and I've enjoyed walking in parts of Halstead that I wouldn't normally explore on my own".

**Cabinet Member Councillor Wendy Schmitt said**, "We are always looking for new ways to promote a healthier lifestyle and the walks are something that many people can get involved in. If the scheme is a success we will expand it to other areas of the District"

Volunteers are needed to lead the walks, no specialist skills are required and brief training will be given. Contact the Leisure Development Team by emailing [walking@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:walking@braintree.gov.uk) or call 01376 552525 for more information.

ENDS

Photo opportunity – **Every Thursday 10am Elizabeth Courtauld Surgery, Factory Road West, Halstead. Before attending please call Kryshia Fuller 01376 551414, just say the name.**

For more press information or enquiries contact: Kryshia Fuller, Leisure Development Officer, 01376 551414 – just say the name.

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 18 May 2006

June 2006

## MEMBERS' FOCUS

# News

### **Braintree council supports joined up thinking for government**

Page 1 of 1

The publication of the Local Government Association's new vision for future local government complements the support pledged by Braintree and many other councils throughout the country, to the private member's Sustainable Communities Bill.

Councillors across England believe that the accountability of local politicians is the best way to re-invigorate local services through local democracy. It is a view which is opposite to the often government centred approach taken at the national level.

Council Leader Graham Butland comments: "The government's own Local Area Agreement approach already points the way forward for a joined-up way to improved local services: everything from managing household waste, to providing information on the high street." He adds: "Whether it's about being closer to the people, or providing better value for money, local residents want to know who it is in their town or village that can be held to account."

Braintree District Council has already committed its support to the 'Local Works' Campaign, itself supported by over 275 MPs named on the [www.localworks.org](http://www.localworks.org) web site.

**ENDS**

For more information or enquiries contact: 01376 557752

See the attached pdf "Closer to people and places" from the Local Government Association: [www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 22 May 2006

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## News

### Council sidelines 'side waste' in favour of recycling

Page 1 of 2

**'Side waste' is the extra rubbish** which many people leave out in bags alongside their wheeled bins. Reasonable levels of side waste have been collected in the Braintree area since wheeled bins were introduced in 2003, mainly because the service offered in Braintree differed slightly from that in Witham. However, side waste results in less recycling, adds to the time and cost of collections, and presents a real health and safety risk to collection crews. Vehicles equipped to lift wheeled bins are not designed for sacks to be thrown in because of the additional loading height and proximity of the lifting mechanism creating a major hazard.

**Most people want to recycle** as much as they can – this has been shown in customer surveys and proven by the high rates of recycling and the shrinking amount going to landfill. The Braintree collection scheme has now been improved to enable the recycling of "green" kitchen waste (that's things like peelings, unused salads, fruit, cut flowers and tea bags, **but not** cooked food, meat, fish or dairy products). Green kitchen waste can now go in the green bin with garden waste for composting. With this change there is more room in the grey bin for things that can't be recycled and side waste should no longer be necessary.

**The collection of side waste will be phased out** over the next two to three weeks to reduce the health and safety risk to collection crews and to give further encouragement for people to recycle. Customers who believe they are making a reasonable attempt to recycle and still have difficulty with bin capacity should contact the Council for advice on (01376) 552525.

**The areas affected by this change are** Braintree & Bocking, Black Notley, Cressing, Great Notley & Rayne, approximately 20,000 properties.

**Councillor Michael Gage comments:** "Some residents need a little more encouragement to recycle and many residents will want to recycle even more. These changes will help reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. I hope people will help to raise recycling rates even further and if anyone has special difficulties, they can call for free advice."

ENDS

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

## Notes for Editors

- The spring recycling newsletter outlined these changes to all residents.
- Last year the cost of waste and recycling in the Braintree District was £69.79 per household: approx £1.30 per week.
- The additional costs due to collecting side waste for these areas alone, are estimated to be £70,000 pa.
- Costs saved will be used to expand the wheeled bin scheme to other areas of the District
- Side waste collections stopped in Witham shortly after the wheeled bin scheme was introduced nearly six years ago.
- The Council has a duty to protect staff from injuries.
- Photo opportunities available by arrangement.

**For press enquiries** and further information about this release contact: Ros Alam, Environmental Communications Officer on 01376 551414, extension 2203.

**For public enquiries** contact Customer Services on 01376 552525, or [csc@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:csc@braintree.gov.uk)

Issued by: Braintree DC PR 2 June 2006

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

CORPORATE THEME HEADING: PLANNING

SUBJECT: Planning Appeals	CONTACT OFFICER: Alison Webb
TEL/EMAIL No.: 01376 551414 Ext. 2614 alison.webb@braintree.gov.uk	BACKGROUND PAPERS: Nil
INFORMATION: To provide details of recently lodged planning appeals and appeal decisions.	

## **INFORMATION: APPEALS LODGED**

Appellant: Mr G Redman  
Site: Land rear of 8 Abels Road, Halstead  
Development: Erection of one pair of semi-detached dwellings and off road parking  
Application No: 05/01563/FUL  
Start Date: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2006

Appellant: Mr & Mrs J Meadows  
Site: Sugar Lane Farmhouse, Sugar Lane, Sible Hedingham  
Development: Demolition of existing garage and stables and erection of a new garage and granny annexe  
Application No: 05/02483/FUL  
Start Date: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2006

Appellant: Mr Mark Bronze  
Site: Former Swimming Pool, Parsonage Street, Halstead  
Development: Infilling of 2 no. carport spaces to create additional bedrooms to Cottage C, provision of 3 no. additional car spaces with parking area  
Application No: 06/00133/FUL  
Start Date: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2006

Appellant: Mr P Hammond  
Site: 1 Bramble Road, Witham  
Development: Erection of two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and roof dormer  
Application No: 05/02362/FUL  
Start Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2006

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

Appellant: Mr & Mrs J MacTaggart  
Site: 15 Sycamore Grove  
Development: Erection of single storey rear extension and repositioning of boundary wall  
Application No: 05/02558/FUL  
Start Date: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2006

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## **INFORMATION: APPEAL DECISIONS**

Appellant: Rathowen Associates  
Site: Twyford House, 6 Rayne Road, Braintree  
Development: Retrospective application for advertisement display casing  
Application No: 04/02049/LBC  
Decision & Date: DISMISSED 25<sup>th</sup> May 2006

# MEMBERS' FOCUS

AREA: Corporate

CORPORATE THEME HEADING:

SUBJECT: Scrutiny	CONTACT OFFICER: Linda Morgan
TEL/EMAIL No.: 2602	BACKGROUND PAPERS:
INFORMATION:	
<p><b>AWARDS SUPPORT COUNCIL HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEES</b></p> <p>The Centre for Public Scrutiny has awarded a further nine councils 20,000 pounds to carry out innovative action learning projects in the field of health scrutiny. The projects will be test beds to evaluate the health scrutiny processes and lessons learned will be shared with councils across the country. This is the third and final of three rounds of Action Learning awards made by the Centre as part of their three-year Health Scrutiny Support Programme designed to increase capacity as non-executive members to develop their powers to scrutinise health and healthcare.</p> <p>The projects include care management for older people, building healthy urban environments, community development in health and well-being, primary care for people with profound and multiple learning difficulties and men's health.</p> <p>The University of Manchester was commissioned to conduct a three-year evaluative study of health scrutiny in September 2004. The evaluation will seek a better understanding of the impact of health scrutiny on organisations and communities and assess the range of methods, processes and approaches being used in health scrutiny.</p> <p>Research by the Centre has shown that as well as conducting service specific reviews such as dentistry, chiropody or mental health services the trend is now for scrutiny committees to conduct broader cross-cutting reviews, including obesity, teenage pregnancy, diabetes and healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Scrutiny activity is resulting in better dialogue and relations with local NHS bodies and fears that it could potentially damage relationships has not generally materialised. There has also been an improvement in joined-up partnership working. NHS bodies believe that challenge and external checks of health scrutiny has been helpful and resulted in changed policy, services or procedures.</p> <p>NB: the primary duty for health scrutiny lies with unitary and County Councils.</p>	