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**OVERVIEW OF ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Environment Scrutiny Committee has undertaken :-
  - (a) **Work Programme 2006/07** – We have given consideration to the Work Programme of this Committee for the Municipal Year 2006/07 and in doing so examined Cabinet’s Forward Plan for particular areas of interest and concern. We continually add to our Work Programme and monitor ongoing items. Looking forward to the new Municipal Year, this Committee agreed to discuss with the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group an idea to set up a workshop event to develop an action plan for the Climate Change Strategy.
  - (b) **Service Planning** – A Policy Advisor within Policy Unit gave an overview of the service planning processes and the importance of the use of Performance Plus to monitor how well the Council was performing on services outlined within the Corporate Plan and Community Strategy, monitored by this Scrutiny Committees. We look forward to receiving further training on performance plus and to get further update reports on our performance.
  - (c) **Policy Review – Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS)** –. One of Environment Scrutiny’s Reviews for the Municipal Year 2006/07 is to focus on the HERS Scheme to identify what effect the Scheme had had on Northgate, whether it represented value for money and if a notable difference had been made to the area. The Group has met several times, set its Terms of Reference and undertaken a site visit of Northgate. It is hoped to give consideration to the Final Report during March.
  - (d) **Policy Review –Grass Verges** – Environment Scrutiny have now finalised their Review of the Borough’s Grass Verges and have forwarded the Final Report together with recommendations to Cabinet for consideration.
  - (e) **Policy Review – Financial Incentives to Business** – Environment Scrutiny Committee were very pleased to note the comments of Cabinet on the findings of the Financial Incentives to Businesses Review Group and we will continue to monitor the Action Plan accordingly.

**Councillor Stella Robson**  
**Chair of Environment Scrutiny Committee**