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## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2006

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry – Narrowing the Gap

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2006, Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved to undertake an Inquiry into 'narrowing the gap'. Attached as Appendix 1 are draft terms of reference for the Inquiry.
- 1.2 Appendix 2 of this report and accompanying appendices provides information on how we measure Narrowing the Gap. This includes information on the Government's PSA Floor Targets and the small area data drawn from the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004. The report demonstrates how this informs the Government's assessment of performance against key public service improvement targets focused on improving outcomes in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and the allocation of funding to supplement and bend mainstream programmes to achieve this.
- 1.3 Councillor Mark Harris, Leader of Council and Executive Member responsible for narrowing the gap will be in attendance at today's meeting to comment on the terms of reference and to answer member's questions.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 Members are asked to;

- (i) Agree the draft terms of reference for the inquiry
- (ii) Consider the information presented as Appendix 2
- (iii) Discuss as appropriate the Inquiry with Councillor Harris
- (iv) Agree how to progress the Inquiry

## **1.0 Recommendations**

### **1.1**