MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held at Swanspool House, Wellingborough on Tuesday, 13 September 2005 commencing 7.00pm and concluded at 8.25pm.

Present:- Councillor Smith (Chairman), Councillor Harrington (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Ainge, Bell, Callnon, May, Old, O’Sullivan, Prescod, Ryan, Saxby and Waters.

Also present : Councillors Allebone, A Bailey, Beirne, Crofts, Dholakia, Lawman, Morrall, Raymond, Ridge, Sherwood and Ward.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Palmer.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that there were no declarations of interest.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2005 be confirmed and signed.

4. CALL-INS

RESOLVED to note that no call-ins had been requested.

5. PRESENTATION ON MEMBER’S ROLE IN RISK MANAGEMENT

The Chairman welcomed Matt Humphrey of Bentley-Jennison to the meeting and noted the good attendance by Members.

Matt Humphrey gave a presentation on the Council’s risk management arrangements and the role of Members to obtain assurances that the controls on which the Council relies for mitigating the risks are effective.

A copy of the presentation is appended to the minutes.

Members raised a number of questions and these were responded to by Matt Humphrey, the Director of Finance and Corporate Services and the Performance and Democratic Services Manager.
The issue of whether Scrutiny Committee added any value was raised, especially as no call-ins had ever been received. It was noted that Scrutiny Committee offered the opportunity to challenge matters and raise questions and had a very good track record in scrutinising the work of the Council’s funded voluntary organisations.

There was a discussion concerning the risk to the Council associated with appeals allowed by planning inspectors against decisions of the Regulatory Committee. It was noted that officer recommendations were based on planning policy and planning information received.

The Chairman thanked Matt Humphrey for his attendance and presentation and expressed a wish that it would enable Members to realise their risk management responsibilities.

CHAIRMAN