

Article 6 – Overview and Scrutiny

6.01 Terms of reference

The Council will appoint a Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee to co-ordinate the scrutiny function and to perform the roles set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure rules. The Council will also appoint Standing Overview and Scrutiny Committees which will be listed in Part 3 of this Constitution. The Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Standing Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be collectively referred to as “Overview and Scrutiny Committees” and will between them discharge the functions conferred by section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000, the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and relevant regulations.

6.02 General role

Within their terms of reference the Overview and Scrutiny Committees will:

- (i) examine and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions including Executive functions;
- (ii) make reports and/or recommendations to Executive Members, the Executive Board and to full Council in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- (iii) consider matters affecting the area or its inhabitants; and
- (iv) following a call in, review decisions made but not yet implemented by the Executive.
- (v) undertake pre-decision scrutiny

6.03 Specific functions

(a) Reports and Recommendations.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees may:

- (i) review corporate policy matters and make recommendations to the Executive Board and/or the Council for consideration;
- (ii) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in their work;
- (iii) question members of the Executive Board and/or committees, officers and Partners about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area; and
- (iv) consider the outcome of external inspections of Council Services and the response to them.

(b) Scrutiny.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees may:

- (i) examine and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of Executive Members, the Executive Board and/or committees and officers both in relation to particular decisions and over time;
- (ii) examine and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
- (iii) question members of the Executive Board and/or committees and officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
- (iv) make recommendations to the Executive Member, the Executive Board and/or appropriate committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- (v) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area including the Health Service and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and local people about their activities and performance. This includes any powers and duties under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and
- (vi) invite appropriate persons to attend meetings and give evidence or act as critical friends.

(c) Finance.

- (i) Overview and Scrutiny Committees may exercise overall responsibility for the finances made available to them.

(d) Annual report.

- (i) The Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee must report annually to full Council on the workings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and their working methods.

6.04 Proceedings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Overview and Scrutiny Committees will conduct their proceedings in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.