

Article 6 – Overview and Scrutiny Committees

6.01 Terms of reference

The Council will ~~always~~ appoint ~~at least one~~ three Overview and Scrutiny Committees to discharge the functions conferred by section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000. The current committee arrangement is set out in the Annex to this Article.

6.02 General powers

Within its terms of reference, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees may:

- (i) make reports or recommendations to the Cabinet and/or appropriate Committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- (ii) question members of the Cabinet and/or Committees and chief 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;
- (iii) question members of the Cabinet and/or Committees and chief officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area
- (iv) question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent);
- (v) exercise overall responsibility for the finances made available to them;
- (vi) exercise overall responsibility for the work programme of any officers employed to support their work.

6.03 Proceedings of Overview and Scrutiny Panels

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

6.04 Annual Report

—The Overview and Scrutiny Committees may report annually to full Council on ~~its~~ their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate. Such a report is to be agreed between the Chairmen of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees and may be presented to Council by the Chairman of the XXX Scrutiny Committee

References:

Section 21 and schedule 1 (Paragraphs 7, 8, 10 and 11), Local Government Act 2000
Chapter 3, DLTR Guidance

Annex to Article 6

Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Terms of Reference

In so far as the functions which are the responsibility of the Community Services, Housing & Planning Services and Economic Development & Regeneration Portfolios are concerned:

- (a) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the Cabinet
 - (b) to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the Cabinet with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the Cabinet
 - (c) to deal with all call-in matters arising under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15 and Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rule 6.
 - (d) to deal with all overview and scrutiny policy matters contained within the constitution, having specific regard for (i) developing new approaches to policy and making appropriate recommendations to assist the Council and the Cabinet in the development of its policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues, and (ii) for budget development, budget review and spending performance issues and in order to assist the Council and the Cabinet in the development of its budget framework;
 - (e) to scrutinise the work of the community safety partnership and the partners who comprise it, where their activities relate to the partnership itself
 - (f) within the constraints of officer time and budgets, conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
 - (g) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
 - (h) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working;
 - (i) to make reports or recommendation to the authority or the Cabinet on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of the area.
 - (j) to review external partnership working and the performance of external service providers.
- ~~to undertake Best Value, Value for Money and other reviews, and review action plans arising from them, including progress on their implementation~~
- (k) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the Cabinet.
 - (l) to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the Cabinet with respect to the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the Cabinet.

Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Terms of Reference

In so far as the functions which are the responsibility of the Business, Corporate & Regulatory and Financial Services Portfolios are concerned:

- (a) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the Cabinet
- (b) to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the Cabinet with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the Cabinet
- (c) to deal with all call-in matters arising under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15 and Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rule 6.
- (d) to deal with all overview and scrutiny policy matters contained within the constitution, having specific regard for (i) developing new approaches to policy and making appropriate recommendations to assist the Council and the Cabinet in the development of its policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues, and (ii) for budget development, budget review and spending performance issues and in order to assist the Council and the Cabinet in the development of its budget framework;
- (e) within the constraints of officer time and budgets, conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- (f) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- (g) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working;
- (h) to make reports or recommendation to the authority or the Cabinet on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of the area.
- (i) to review external partnership working and the performance of external service providers.
~~to undertake Best Value, Value for Money and other reviews, and review action plans arising from them, including progress on their implementation.~~
- (j) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the Cabinet.
- (k) to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the Cabinet with respect to the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the Cabinet.

Operational Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Terms of Reference

In so far as the functions which are the responsibility of the Operational Services Portfolio are concerned:

- (a) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions. which are the responsibility of the Cabinet
- (b) to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the Cabinet with respect to the discharge of any functions. which are the responsibility of the Cabinet
- (c) to deal with all call-in matters arising under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15 and Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rule 6.
- (d) to deal with all overview and scrutiny policy matters contained within the constitution, having specific regard for (i) developing new approaches to policy and making appropriate recommendations to assist the Council and the Cabinet in the development of its policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues, and (ii) for budget development, budget review and spending performance issues and in order to assist the Council and the Cabinet in the development of its budget framework
- (e) within the constraints of officer time and budgets, conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- (f) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options
- (g) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working;
- (h) to make reports or recommendation to the authority or the Cabinet on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of the area.
- (i) to review external partnership working and the performance of external service providers.
~~to undertake Best Value, Value for Money and other reviews, and review action plans arising from them, including progress on their implementation-~~
- (j) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the Cabinet.
- (k) to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the Cabinet with respect to the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the Cabinet.