

Article 6 – Overview and Scrutiny Committees

6.01 Terms of reference

The Council will appoint Scrutiny Committees, as set out below, to discharge the functions conferred by section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000, and regulations under section 32 of the Local Government Act 2000 or Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Committee	Scope
Cleaner and Greener Scrutiny Committee	<p>Any aspect of policy and provision related to the local environment and economy, including pursuing the highest standards in matters relating to the Street Scene, parks and open spaces, recycling and environmental sustainability, parking policy, waste disposal, street cleansing, refuse collection, cemeteries, biodiversity, transport and planning.</p> <p>Responsibility for scrutinising the Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Housing and Cabinet Member for Strategy on regeneration matters.</p> <p>Responsibility for scrutinising the Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Residents Services, Cabinet Member for Crime and Street Scene and any other member of the Executive on relevant issues.</p>
Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	<p>Any aspect of policy and provision related to education in the borough and the education budget; scrutiny of children's services including education and children's social care services.</p> <p>Responsibility for scrutinising the Cabinet Member for Community & Children's Services and any other members of the Executive on relevant issues.</p>

<p>Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Any aspect of policy and provision relating to health and adult social services in the borough, including statutory responsibilities in relation to health as set out in paragraph 6.03 [c] below and also the voluntary and community sector.</p> <p>Responsibility for scrutinising the Cabinet Member for Community & Children’s Services and any other members of the Executive on relevant issues.</p>
<p>Housing Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Any aspect of policy and provision relating to housing in the Borough.</p> <p>Responsibility for scrutinising the Cabinet Member for Housing and any other members of the Executive on relevant issues.</p>
<p>Local Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Any aspect of policy and provision relating to quality of life, including policing, community safety, tackling antisocial behaviour, licensing and gambling, employment, adult education, cultural services and registration.</p> <p>To act as the Council’s “Crime & Disorder Committee” for the purposes of the Police and Justice Act 2006. This Committee provides an opportunity for local residents to bring forward key concerns regarding their local neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Responsibility for scrutinising the Cabinet Member for Community and Children’s Services in respect of community cohesion and voluntary sector groups.</p> <p>Responsibility for scrutinising the Cabinet Member for Crime and Street Scene, Cabinet Member for Parks, Culture and Heritage and Cabinet Member for Residents Services and any other members of the Executive on relevant issues.</p>

Value for Money Scrutiny Committee	Any aspect of the Council's strategic policy formulation, corporate budget (setting and monitoring), performance management, human resources, organisational development and the Council's strategic partnerships. Responsibility for scrutinising the Leader, the Cabinet Member for Strategy and any other members of the Executive on relevant issues.
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6.02 General role

The Scrutiny Committees will be appointed in accordance with the political proportion of the Council as a whole. Within their terms of reference, these Scrutiny Committees will:

- i) review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
- ii) make reports and/or recommendations to the Executive and/or the full Council in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- iii) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants arising from the Forward Plan or otherwise; and
- iv) exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Executive.

6.03 Specific functions

(a) **Policy development and review** – Scrutiny Committees may:

- i) assist the Council and the Executive in the development of its budget and policy framework by in depth analysis of policy issues;
- ii) conduct research, and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- iii) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- iv) question members of the Executive and chief officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area; and

- v) 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.

(b) **Scrutiny** - Scrutiny Committees may:

- i) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Executive and Council officers, both in relation to individual decisions and over time;
- ii) review 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 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;
- iv) make recommendations to the Executive and/or the Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- v) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Scrutiny Committees and local people about their activities and performance; and
- vi) question and gather evidence from any person.

(c) **Scrutiny of health** With regard to the scrutiny of health, the Health and Adult Social Care Committee has the powers to:

- i) review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the area;
- ii) make reports and/or recommendations to the local NHS bodies, the Secretary of State and the Council on any matter reviewed or scrutinised pursuant to regulations under Sections 7 and 8 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001;
- iii) make comments on any proposals consulted on by a local NHS body concerning a substantial development of the health service in the area or for a substantial variation in the provision of such service;

- iv) arrange for relevant functions in respect of health scrutiny to be exercised by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of another local authority where the Council considers that another local authority would be better placed to undertake those relevant functions, and that local authority agrees to exercise those functions; and
- v) appoint a joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee with one or more other local authorities and arrange for the relevant functions of those authorities to be exercised by the joint committee.

6.04 Proceedings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees

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

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