

ARTICLE 6 - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

6.1 General

6.1.1 The Council has agreed that the overview and scrutiny function should be exercised by the Scrutiny Committee. The Committee will consist of 13 members of the Council who are not members of the Cabinet.

6.2 Scrutiny Committee

6.2.1 The Scrutiny Committee will -

- (i) review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions ensuring they are made in accordance with the Constitution and policies laid down by the Council and within the Corporate Plan;
- (ii) make reports and/or recommendations to the Council and/or the Cabinet and/or Joint Committees in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- (iii) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants; and
- (iv) exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made by the Cabinet or an officer but not yet implemented.

6.3 Specific functions

Policy development and review.

6.3.1 The Scrutiny Committee will -

- (i) assist the Council and the Cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
- (ii) conduct research, community 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 Cabinet 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.

Scrutiny

6.3.2 The Scrutiny Committee will -

- (i) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Cabinet 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 Cabinet 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 Cabinet and/or 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 committee and local people about their activities and performance; and
- (vi) question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).

Finance

6.3.3 The Scrutiny Committee will exercise overall responsibility for the finances made available to the Committee.

Annual report

6.3.4 The Scrutiny Committee will report annually to the Council on its workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

6.4 Proceedings of the Scrutiny Committee

6.4.1 The Scrutiny Committee will conduct proceedings in accordance with the Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Appendix 6 of this Constitution.

6.5 Select Committees

- 6.5.1 From time to time the Council, Cabinet or Scrutiny Committee may appoint Select Committees or Working Parties to discharge any of the functions of the Scrutiny Committee.