

Article 7 – Overview and Scrutiny Committees

7.01 General Role

The Council will appoint overview and scrutiny committees to discharge the functions conferred by section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

Overview and Scrutiny should be carried out in a constructive way and should aim to contribute to the delivery of efficient and effective services that meet the needs and aspirations of local people. The Committees should also be prepared to challenge and question decisions and make constructive criticism.

The Council has allocated its overview and scrutiny responsibilities across a total of three Overview and Scrutiny Committees;

- A Scrutiny Committee which holds the Cabinet to account, has a strategic outlook and solely holds the power of Call-In **having access to the key decision forward plan.**
- Two policy-focused Committees, which undertake forward looking, policy development work and pre-decision scrutiny, relevant to their specific areas. These are the Economy and Housing Policy Committee and the Health and Environment Policy Committee.

The Monitoring Officer will have the discretion to decide which Committee is appropriate for the discharge of Overview and Scrutiny responsibilities having regard to Council priorities with a view to facilitating pre-decision scrutiny. Where there are overlapping jurisdictions, where matters fall in the remit of more than one Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Monitoring Officer will use that discretion in consultation with the Committee Chairpersons.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee procedure rules sets out the rules for the operation of these Committees and the detailed definitive Terms of Reference.

7.02 Terms of Reference

The Scrutiny Committee

The broad terms of reference are as follows:

- a) To review and scrutinise any decisions made or to be made or actions to be taken in connection with the discharge of the Council's functions, including holding the Cabinet to account by reviewing and scrutinising executive decisions.
- b) Reviewing and scrutinising the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives and performance targets

- c) Exercise the right to Call-In for reconsideration of decisions made but not yet implemented by the Leader, the Cabinet and Cabinet Members and Officers.

In general the two Policy Committees facilitate the pre-decision scrutiny by:

- a) Assisting, if appropriate, the Council, Leader and Cabinet in the development of its policy and budget framework by in depth analysis of the policy issues within the priority areas allocated to them in the Council Plan.
- b) Conducting research if required, as well as community and other consultation if required, for the analysis of policy issues, the identification of possible options and to make recommendations to Cabinet or Council. They will consider the impact of policies that are being renewed, updated or refreshed to assess if and how they have made a difference.
- c) Questioning the Leader and other Members of the Cabinet and/or Committees and senior officers of the Council about their views and issues of proposals affecting the relevant priority of the Council Plan in each Committee's remit.

The two policy Committees' broad terms of reference are as follows:

Economy and Housing Policy Committee

To maintain a strategic overview of the progress towards the achievement of the relevant priorities in the Council Plan namely:

- a) Making the District a premier business location
- b) Delivering quality housing options

Health and Environment Policy Committee

To maintain a strategic overview of the progress towards the achievement of the relevant priorities in the Council Plan namely:

- a) Improving the quality of the District's environment
- b) Improving the health and happiness of the community