

Article 6 - Overview and Scrutiny

6.01 Terms of Reference

The Council will appoint one or more overview and scrutiny committees to discharge the functions conferred by section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 or regulations under that Act. The number, size and composition of these committees will be determined by Council from time to time as it sees fit.

Council has agreed to appoint a Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel which has overview and scrutiny responsibilities for the following areas, which are related to Cabinet lead responsibilities:

- Economy
- Environment
- Health and Wellbeing
- Housing and Development

Council has agreed to appoint an Audit and Resources Committee which also has some scrutiny responsibilities as set out in Article 10 of this Constitution.

Notwithstanding the above, the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel is able to review, scrutinise, and submit reports or recommendations in respect of any decision or action by the Audit and Resources Committee.

The appointment of Scrutiny Panels shall be deemed to satisfy the requirement under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 to appoint one or more overview and scrutiny committees.

6.02 General Role

Within their terms of reference, the Scrutiny Panel will:

- Review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions (including executive functions);
 - Assist with policy development and overview and scrutinise policy implementation;
 - Make reports and/or recommendations to the Cabinet, Local Area Committees or the Council in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- (a) To overview and scrutinise the decisions of the Cabinet and Local Area Committees and regularly review the contents of the Forward Plan.

- (b) The overview and scrutiny of policy implementation, and the effectiveness of policy in achieving objectives via the annual strategic cycle.
- (c) To assist with policy development, budget evolution or other work evolving from the annual strategic cycle and when requested by either the Cabinet or Council.
- (d) In liaison with the Cabinet or relevant lead, to undertake efficiency and improvement work related to their theme areas through the creation of task and finish groups (where necessary).
- (e) To monitor the implementation of improvement plans arising from efficiency and improvement reviews related to their theme areas;
- (f) To make recommendations to the Cabinet, Local Area Committee or the Council in the light of (a) to (e);
- (g) To recommend to the Council that other policy development, overview or scrutiny work should be undertaken;
- (h) To scrutinise organisational performance related to theme areas, including the outcomes achieved and key performance indicators; and.
- (i) To liaise with other external organisations operating in the area to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.

In carrying out this role, the Scrutiny Panel will liaise with the lead Cabinet Member for its theme areas, and with Local Area Committee Chairs and relevant lead officers where appropriate, to facilitate effective working relationships.

6.03 Proceedings of the Scrutiny Panel

The conduct of their proceedings at the Scrutiny Panel will be in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

6.04 Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny

The Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel has been designated as the Council's crime and disorder overview and scrutiny committee, as set out in the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009. The terms of reference for the Panel shall also include the following:

- (a) To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions;

- (b) To make reports or recommendations to the Council with respect to the discharge of those functions;
- (c) To have at least one meeting each municipal year to scrutinise crime and disorder matters; and
- (d) To co-opt members from the Eastleigh Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership should it wish to when reviewing certain projects/decisions.

6.05 Task and Finish Groups

Where appropriate, the Scrutiny Panel may use time limited Task and Finish Groups to carry out detailed work on specific topics or issues.

Members are appointed to Task and Finish Groups based on their interest, either on the issue or as a representative of a relevant ward, and personal knowledge or expertise.

The Groups will be Member led, and conduct their business on an informal basis. They have no decision-making powers, but aid the policy development of the Council by examining important issues and preparing ideas and recommendations for consideration. A Protocol for organising Task and Finish Groups is available on the Council's website.

