

Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Task and Finish Groups

REMINDER OF BACKGROUND

The overarching role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to review and scrutinise the work of the Executive, the content of the Forward Plan and the policies of the Council. Effective Overview and Scrutiny Committees generally have a positive 'critical friend' approach and use constructive challenge to drive improvement within the local authority.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees can also establish Task and Finish Groups to review specific issues. Task and Finish Groups are Member-led and are a good opportunity for Members to investigate an issue they might have a particular interest in in further detail. They are generally informal and time-limited groups which gather evidence and produce recommendations on the subject. They can include evidence sessions, briefings, and site visits where appropriate. A Task and Finish Group would meet regularly over several months or as often as needed until the project is complete. The Group would also have frequent contact with key officer contacts working within the enquiry area.

Membership of Task and Finish Groups should initially be agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the overarching Scrutiny Committee should also decide who should chair the group. Membership of Task and Finish Groups are not necessarily restricted to Members who sit on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, any Members outside of the Cabinet can be nominated to participate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to begin to identify an area for investigation with a view to forming a Task and Finish Group.

REMINDER OF PROCEDURE FOR TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

Suggested subject for Task and Finish Group put forward and discussed at Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting



Advice sought from relevant officers as to whether the subject is suitable for the scrutiny of a Task and Finish Group



Task and Finish Group meets to agree scope and way forward for the project

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Task and Finish Group meets to gather evidence and work on project

Task and Finish Group produces a report on findings and any recommendations

CURRENT TASK AND FINISH GROUP SUGGESTIONS FROM MEMBERS:

1. Review of food hygiene safety in Gloucester's food premises
2. Review of how gambling licenses are issued in Gloucester
3. Review of arts and cultural engagement– how the Council could better engage with young people and people from racially minoritized communities living in Gloucester
4. Review of Diabetes awareness amongst racially minoritized communities in Gloucester
5. Review of how young people from racially minoritized backgrounds living in Gloucester are encouraged to apply for university.