

Article 6 – Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 6.01 The overview and scrutiny function is a central element to this Constitution. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee meets in public to discuss and make recommendations on the development of policies and hold the Executive to account for its actions. It also has a key role in considering other matters of local concern.
- 6.02 The guiding principle for the work of scrutiny is that it should be consensual and positive. The emphasis of the work should be on making a proactive and positive contribution to the development of policy and the discharge of the Council's functions under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended). This is best achieved by an inclusive process covering Members, the Council's partners, service users and officers.
- 6.03 The Council will appoint an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out below to discharge the functions conferred by Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended).
- 6.04 The functions of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are detailed in Part 3C of the Constitution. The procedure rules concerning overview and scrutiny are detailed in Part 4 of the Constitution.
- 6.05 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have an overarching scrutiny role and will also co-ordinate, plan and approve the programme of scrutiny work. It will have the right to create such task and finish groups, scrutiny panels or working parties as it thinks fit to carry out the overview and scrutiny programme and delegate such functions as it thinks appropriate. Each task and finish group or working party will scrutinise the work of the Council and the Executive on a service based and/or cross cutting basis.
- 6.06 Additionally, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will regularly review the Forward Plan of decisions and indicate whether the proposed level of consultation is appropriate for the decision to be taken.
- 6.07 Where decisions of the Leader, Cabinet, individual Cabinet Members or officers are key decisions, they will be published and circulated as set out in Rule 14 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Call-in).

Policy Development and Review

- 6.08 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options.

Proceedings of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 6.09 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will conduct its proceedings in accordance with Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended) and the overview and scrutiny procedure rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.