

Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Task and Finish Group

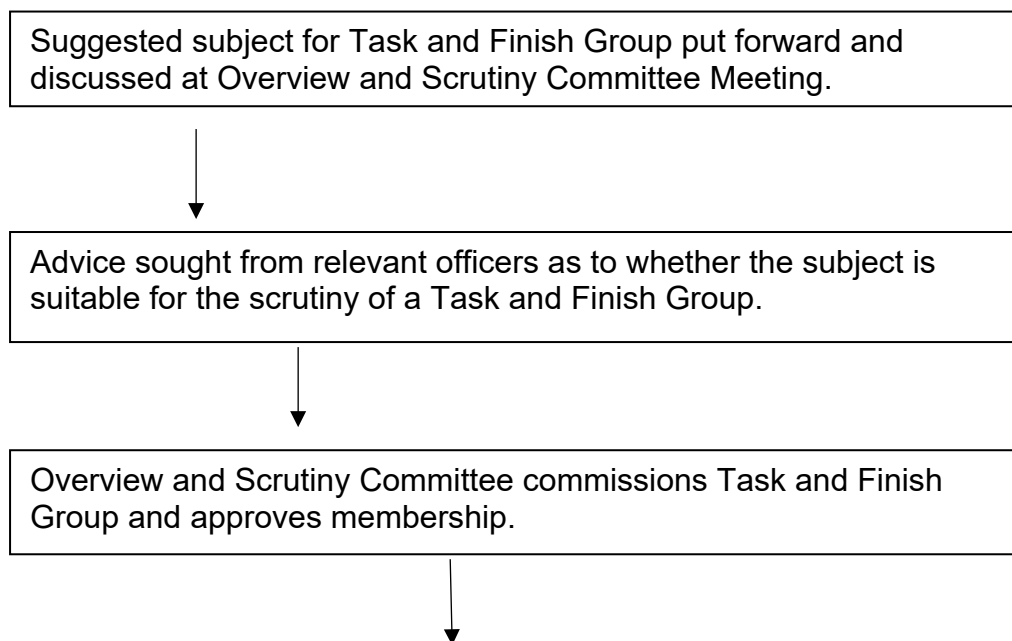
BACKGROUND

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. 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.

REMINDER OF PROCEDURE FOR TASK AND FINISH GROUPS



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



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



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

PROGRESS UPDATE

Since the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned the Task and Finish Group to investigate damp and mould in Gloucester's rented accommodation, the Task and Finish Group have met regularly and are in the process of investigating the scale of damp and mould in Gloucester's social housing and private rented accommodation. They are looking into the approach taken by landlords to address damp and mould issues and the redress avenues available to tenants.

The Task and Finish Group has met with several Registered Social Housing Providers and colleagues from voluntary sector advice organisations. The Group is currently gathering evidence around damp and mould in private sector housing and aims to present initial findings to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee around June 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to approve the following revised membership of the Task and Finish Group on Damp and Mould in Gloucester's rented accommodation:

Councillor Angela Conder (Chair)
Councillor Terry Pullen
Councillor Kathy Williams