
Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 12th June, 2023

Report of the Lead for Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements 2023/24

Purpose

1. To consider the Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements for 2023/24.

Recommendations

2. That the updates to Article 6 of the Constitution and the associated Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, as set out in the Appendix, be noted.
3. That the views of the Committee be invited on the development of any aspects of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements during the 2023/24 municipal year.

Background

4. At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 18th May, 2023, approval was given to the establishment of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, together with the following Select Committees, for the 2023/24 municipal year.
 - Adult Social Care Select Committee
 - Children's Services Select Committee
 - Climate Change Select Committee
 - Corporate and Economic Strategy Select Committee
 - Highways and Environmental Services Select Committee
 - Housing and Homelessness Select Committee *
 - Public Health Select Committee

*NB: Following the Annual Council meeting, the Cabinet Member's portfolio has subsequently been amended by the Leader to 'Housing and Safer Communities'. For the purposes of this report, and subject to formal confirmation, the revised title will be used for the Housing and Safer Communities Select Committee.

5. The Council approved the composition and membership of Committees, together with the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs. Details are available on the [Council's website](#).
6. The Lead for Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) was authorised to take any necessary and consequential actions to implement the proposals and any other decisions that were taken at the Annual Meeting of the Council. This includes the necessary updates to the Council's Constitution.
7. The Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements are set out in Article 6 of the Constitution and the associated Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules. The Appendix sets out updated versions of these documents taking account of the decisions made at the Annual Meeting of the Council. The views of this Committee are invited on the updated documents and the development of the Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements during 2023/24.

Finance

8. The Council's scrutiny arrangements for 2023/24 will cause an initial pressure of £30,180 on the budget for Members' Allowances and will also require additional unbudgeted resource for officer support. The Director of Finance and Legal will seek in year to contain this pressure from reserves. However, arrangements for future years will need to be considered as part of the budget process for 2024/25 onwards.

Law

9. Scrutiny Committees are established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which was adopted under the Local Government Act 2000, subsequent legislation and associated Regulations and Guidance. The Council's scrutiny arrangements are set out in Article 6 of the Constitution (Overview and Scrutiny) and the associated Procedure Rules are contained within Part 4 of the Constitution.

Risk Management

10. Reports to this Committee and individual Select Committees will include a paragraph to ensure proper consideration of any ongoing material risks as part of the Council's Risk Management Framework.

Equality Impact

11. Provision exists within the Council's governance arrangements for overview and scrutiny to be undertaken of the Council's policies on equality, diversity and inclusion.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

12. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Select Committees are primarily administered by the Democratic Services Team with support from Directorates and other Officers as required. Any proposals to develop the Council's overview and scrutiny functions must be set in the context of the resources available and the organisational capacity to support scrutiny work.

Commercial/Procurement

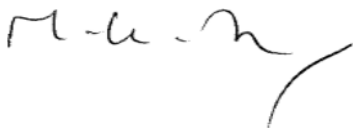
13. Individual items may have commercial or procurement implications, which will be reported to this Committee or the relevant Select Committees.

Environment/Climate Change

14. Within our governance arrangements, the Council requires that all reports should include an assessment of the impact on the environment. The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and reports on individual proposals should address the impact on the Council's work to address Climate Change and achieve the Net Zero target by 2041. In addition, individual reports should consider how the proposals support the [United Nations sustainable development goals](#)
15. To reinforce the Council's commitment, the Leader has established a specific Cabinet portfolio for Climate Change. The Council has also established the Climate Change Select Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year.

Council Priorities and Projects

16. Overview and Scrutiny is a key element of the Council's governance arrangements to underpin the delivery of key Council priorities including the Borough Vision, Council Plan and Future Council Programme. Reports to meetings will include details of how proposals impact on key Council priorities.



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List of Background Documents

Appendix – Article 6 of the Constitution and Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

[Reports to the Annual Meeting of the Council – 18th May, 2023](#)