

Article 6 – Overview and Scrutiny Committee

6.01 Terms of Reference

The Council will from time to time appoint the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to discharge the functions conferred by section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 or regulations under section 32 of the Local Government Act 2000.

6.02 General role

Within their terms of reference, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will:

- i) review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
- ii) make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council and/or the executive and/or any policy, joint or area committee in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- iii) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants including in particular the provision of services or exercise of functions by other public sector bodies or agencies in the Borough; and
- iv) exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the executive and/or any policy committees.

6.03 Specific functions

(a) Policy development and review

Overview and Scrutiny Committee may:

- i) assist the Council and the executive in the development of the budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
- ii) conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- iii) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- iv) question members of the executive and committees and chief officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area; and
- v) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.

(b) Scrutiny

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may:

- i) review and scrutinise the decisions made by, and performance of, the executive and committees both in relation to individual decisions and over time;
- ii) review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and particular service areas;
- iii) question members of the executive and committees about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
- iv) make recommendations to the executive and/or appropriate committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- v) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the overview and scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance; and
- vi) question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).

(c) **Finance**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may exercise overall responsibility for the finances made available to them.

(d) **Annual report**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee must report annually to Full Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

6.04 Proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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