

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee enables Councillors to look closely at services and issues that affect the lives of local people with a view to improving them. The Committee can examine any matter that affects the Council, the Borough or residents that live in the area to provide greater accountability for the delivery of local services. To be successful scrutiny depends not only on active participation not only by members of the Committee but also others, including Executive Councillors - members of the Cabinet, - representatives from partner organisations and sometimes voluntary organisations and individual members of the public.

The Committee has a number of key roles including:

- Holding the Cabinet Members to account
- Monitoring Council performance to ensure it is meeting the needs of the local community
- Reviewing and developing policy
- Acting as a 'critical friend' for those making decisions
- Examining the work of external organisations if there is public concern.

There are 13 members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which is proportional balanced to reflect the political makeup of the full Council. The Committee meets approximately six times a year and any Councillor is able to sit on the Committee except for members of the Cabinet. The committee cannot make decisions or overturn the decisions of others; instead it aims to support improvement by putting forward evidence based recommendations to influence the decisions and actions of those who can.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee manages its own work programme, examining quarterly performance data and examining individual Cabinet members' portfolios. Issues raised at Committee can be examined in more detail by time limited task and finish groups, also known as working groups. Issues for review do not have to be the responsibility of the Council but can include the work of other public service providers in the Borough. If evidence shows there is a better way to do things the Overview and Scrutiny can make recommendations for change. A review can last several months prior to drawing together its findings, developing a report and making recommendations for improvement.

The agenda and minutes for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can be accessed on line:

<https://democracy.gedling.gov.uk/mgCommittee>

How you can get involved

Members of the public can make suggestions for scrutiny reviews. Scrutiny does not examine individual problems or complaints about the Council but has a focus on strategic policies and issues. If you have a suggestion please contact us using the contact details below to discuss further.