

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
20 MAY 2013
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE
REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1. Purpose

To make sure all members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are aware of the terms of reference for the Committee and its implications for the operation of the Committee during the year.

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to note the terms of reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as approved at Council, on 20 May 2013.

3. Background information

On 20 May 2013 Council established the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and agreed its terms of reference.

4. List of attached information

The following information can be found in the appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference

5. Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

None

6. Published documents referred to in compiling this report

Report to the Annual Meeting of the City Council on 20 May 2013.

7. Wards affected

Citywide

8. Contact information

Contact Colleagues

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Terms of reference

- (a) To set, manage and co-ordinate the overview and scrutiny work programme to ensure all statutory roles and responsibilities accorded to the overview and scrutiny function, with the exception of health scrutiny, are fulfilled, including the ability to:
 - i. hold local decision-makers, including the Council's Executive, to account for their decisions, action and performance;
 - ii. review policy and contribute to the development of new policy and the strategy of the Council and other local decision-makers where it impacts on Nottingham residents;
 - iii. explore any matters affecting Nottingham and/ or its residents;
 - iv. make reports and recommendations to relevant local agencies with respect to the delivery of their functions, including the Council and its Executive;
- (b) to maintain an overview of key strategic issues relevant to Nottingham and its residents to inform decisions about the work programme so that it is focused on, and adds value by the examination of, issues of local importance and concern;
- (c) to commission time-limited review panels (no more than 3 major reviews at any one time) to carry out an individual review in accordance with the overview and scrutiny work programme. This commissioning includes setting the remit, initial timescale, size of membership and chair of the panel to meet the needs of the review being undertaken;
- (d) to monitor the effectiveness of the overview and scrutiny work programme and the impact of outcomes from overview and scrutiny activity, including the outcomes of review panels;
- (e) to work with the Health Scrutiny Panel, to support effective delivery of a co-ordinated overview and scrutiny work programme. This may include making referrals of issues for potential scrutiny to the Health Scrutiny Panel;
- (f) to establish a sub-committee known as the Call-In Panel to meet as required to consider call-in requests in accordance with the Council's Call-In Procedure;
- (g) to consider requests for councillor calls for action;
- (h) to receive petitions in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme;
- (i) to commission separate policy briefings to inform councillors about current key issues relevant to Nottingham, to aid decisions about the future overview and scrutiny work programme and prepare councillors to undertake overview and scrutiny work that has already been commissioned;

- (j) to co-opt people from outside the Council to sit on any of the overview and scrutiny bodies as relevant to support effective delivery of the overview and scrutiny work programme;
- (k) to establish a pool of no more than 5 scrutiny chairs (the membership of which will include the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee) who will chair scrutiny review panels and/ or the Call-in Panel as required by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Membership will include two individuals co-opted (with voting rights) from outside the Council. Membership must not include members of the Executive Board. The allocation of seats on the Committee between political groups will be determined on a year by year basis.

The Committee has a number of established sub-committees:

- Call-in Panel;
- Scrutiny Review Panels which are assigned specific time-limited reviews (number appointed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee dependent on available resources).