

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
**8 September 2021**

**Centre for Governance and Scrutiny Review of Scrutiny**

**Report of the Head of Legal and Governance**

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To consider the report from the Centre for Governance Scrutiny resulting from its recent review of scrutiny at Nottingham City Council.

**2 Action required**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to
- (a) endorse the report and recommend it to Council for approval
  - (b) agree that a working group comprising the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee, the Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, the Head of Legal and Governance, and the Senior Governance Officers responsible for scrutiny, be established to develop an action plan to respond to the recommendations in the report
  - (c) agree that the action plan is submitted to the October meeting of the Committee for approval.

**3 Background information**

- 3.1 In August 2020, the Council's external auditor issued a Report in the Public Interest (PIR) on Nottingham City Council's governance arrangements for Robin Hood Energy Ltd. In response to this Report, Full Council agreed an Action Plan at an extraordinary meeting held on 27 August 2020. Following the publication of the report a Rapid Non-Statutory Review of Nottingham City Council was commissioned by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), with the review findings being published in December 2020. Both reports recommended reviews of Overview and Scrutiny in order to strengthen the function enabling it to provide effective challenge and support to the Council, and in response the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny was commissioned to carry out a review of the Council's scrutiny function.
- 3.2 The review also took into account the 2019 MHCLG Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities to advise on how Overview and Scrutiny in Nottingham can best adopt the practices outlined within it.

- 3.3 The objectives of the review were to
- a) analyse the current structure, roles, culture and ways of working of Overview and Scrutiny, in light of the statutory guidance,
  - b) identify areas for improvement, and
  - c) produce recommendations on how those improvements might be made with limited resources.
- 3.4 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny's report is attached for consideration.

#### **4 List of attached information**

- 4.1 Centre for Governance and Scrutiny Review of Scrutiny.

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

- 5.1 None.

#### **6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

- 6.1 None.

#### **7 Wards affected**

- 7.1 All.

#### **8 Contact information**

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