

Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee

Terms of Reference

Description

The Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee (the Committee) is a politically balanced Non-Executive Committee of Council. It is established to discharge functions conferred by the Localism Act 2011 and other relevant legislation in relation to matters affecting local communities and the environment including community protection, environmental health, community safety, sport, culture, tourism, waste and cleansing, energy and the environment. The Committee is accountable to Council and will report annually to Council on its activities during the previous year.

The Committee will offer constructive review, feedback and challenge to the Council's Executive and other relevant local decision makers on their decisions, actions, policy, strategy and performance.

Purpose

The purpose of the Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee is to carry out the following roles for matters relating to communities and the environment:

- (a) hold local decision-makers, including the Council's Executive and relevant Boards of the Council's group of companies, to account for their decisions, actions, performance and management of risk
- (b) review existing policies and strategies of the Council and other local decision-makers where they impact on Nottingham citizens
- (c) contribute to the development of new policies and strategies of the Council and other local decision-makers where they impact on Nottingham citizens
- (d) explore any matters affecting Nottingham and/ or its citizens
- (e) make reports and recommendations to relevant local agencies with respect to the delivery of their functions, including the Council and its Executive
- (f) review decisions made but not yet implemented by the Council's Executive in accordance with the Call-in Procedure.

Objectives

The Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee will:

- (a) develop and manage a work programme to ensure all statutory and other roles and responsibilities are fulfilled for matters relating to communities and the environment to the required standard and which covers review and development of key strategic issues, policies and strategies relevant to Nottingham and its residents, and which adds value through the examination of issues of local importance and concern, in accordance with the scope and approach set out in Article 11 – Overview and Scrutiny.
- (b) to work with the other scrutiny committees to support effective delivery of a co-ordinated overview and scrutiny work programme
- (c) monitor the effectiveness of its work programme and the impact of outcomes from overview and scrutiny activity
- (d) regularly review the decisions, actions and performance of the Council's Executive and other relevant local decision makers, including the Council's group of companies, in order to fulfil its role in holding those decision makers to account. Where relevant this role will be co-ordinated with those of the Audit Committee and the Companies Governance Executive Committee.
- (e) receive petitions in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme

- (f) consider any relevant matter referred to it by any of its members and consider any relevant local government matter referred to it by any Nottingham City Councillor.

The Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee has no decision making powers but has the power to:

- (a) require members of the Council's Executive, and certain other local decision makers, to: provide information to the Committee, to attend meetings, and answer questions posed by the Committee in relation to their Executive role
- (b) invite other persons to attend meetings of the Committee to provide information and/ or answer questions
- (c) make recommendations and provide reports to relevant decision makers, and in particular the Council's Executive, on matters within their remits. The Council's Executive and other relevant decision makers have a duty to respond in writing to such recommendations within two months of receipt.

The Committee is required to consider Crime and Disorder matters at least once every Municipal Year.

Further detail on the rules and procedures relating to Overview and Scrutiny, including the Call-in Procedure, can be found in Article 11 – Overview and Scrutiny.

Membership and Chairing

The Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee has 8 members.

Members of the Executive are excluded from membership of the Committee.

Executive Assistants responsible for assisting on a Portfolio within the remit of this Committee are excluded from membership of the Committee.

The Chair of the Committee will be appointed by Full Council at its Annual General Meeting. The Chair cannot be a Chair of the Board of a company in the Council's Group of companies that relates to matters within the Committee's remit.

The Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee may choose to appoint co-opted members to the Committee. Voting arrangements for co-optees will be in accordance with the scheme of voting rights for co-opted members of overview and scrutiny committees set out in Article 11 – Overview and Scrutiny.

Substitutes

Substitute members are permitted for this committee.

Quorum

The standard quorum for Council committees applies to this committee.

Frequency of Meetings

The Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee will meet six times per year.

Duration

There is no limit on the lifespan of the Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee.