

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IN LOCAL AND COMBINED AUTHORITIES

14th June 2023

Report of Chief Officer - Governance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Chair has requested this item to be placed on the agenda to enable Members to be aware of the statutory guidance. The guidance seeks to ensure local authorities and combined authorities are aware of the purpose of overview and scrutiny, what effective scrutiny looks like, how to conduct it effectively and the benefits it can bring.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) The Committee is requested to consider the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting, held on 16 October 2019, the Committee was provided with a copy of the Guidance that had been published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- 1.2 It was noted that the Guidance refreshed the understanding of the key principles of scrutiny, as defined by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (**note:** now Centre for Governance and Scrutiny) and underlined by the Statutory Guidance, considered the roles of the function and the tools and techniques for effective scrutiny. The Committee noted that the Council's Constitution reflected the issues contained within the Guidance and, as the Constitution was available on the Council's internet and intranet sites, Members were aware of the issues referred to.
- 1.3 With regard to the Scrutiny Protocol, contained within the Guidance, it was noted that this issue had been recently discussed at an informal Cabinet and Scrutiny evening, when the Guidance was considered. It was the feeling of the Committee that, as Cabinet Portfolio Holders were regularly invited and attended meetings of scrutiny, there was no need for a protocol to be introduced.

2. CONCLUSION

- 2.1 The guidance seeks to ensure local authorities and combined authorities are aware of the purpose of overview and scrutiny, what effective scrutiny looks like, how to conduct it effectively and the benefits it can bring.
- 2.2 A copy of the Guidance is appended to this report.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

There are no direct implications as a result of this report.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

There are no direct implications as a result of this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council's Constitution reflects the issues contained within the Guidance. There are no legal implications as a direct result of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources; Information Services; Property; Open Spaces:

None.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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