

Article 6 – Scrutiny Committee

6.01 Terms of Reference

The Council will appoint a Scrutiny Committee to discharge the functions conferred by Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

6.02 General Role

Within its Terms of Reference, the Scrutiny Committee will:

- i) review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
- ii) make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council and/or the Cabinet and/or any policy, joint or area Committee in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- iii) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants;
- iv) exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Cabinet and officers;
- v) conduct Best Value reviews in accordance with the Council's programme;
- vi) respond to Cabinet consultation.

6.03 Specific Functions

a) **Policy Development and Review.** The Scrutiny Committee may:

- i) assist the Council and the Cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
- ii) conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- iii) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- iv) question Members of the Cabinet, and/or Committees and Chief Officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area; and
- v) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.

b) **Scrutiny.** The Scrutiny Committee may:

- i) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Cabinet, Committees and Council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time;
- ii) review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
- iii) question Members of the Cabinet, Committees and Chief Officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
- iv) make recommendations to the Cabinet, appropriate Committee or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;

- v) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Scrutiny Committee and local people about their activities and performance; and
 - vi) question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).
- c) **Finance.** The Scrutiny Committee may exercise overall responsibility for the finances made available to it.
- d) **Annual Report.** The Scrutiny Committee must report annually to full Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods.

6.04 **Proceedings of Scrutiny Committees**

The Scrutiny Committee will conduct its proceedings in accordance with the Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.