

Article 6 – The Scrutiny Function

6.01 Overview and Scrutiny

Effective Overview and Scrutiny is essential to enhance the accountability and transparency of the decision making process.

Area Committees provide a key mechanism for Councillors to represent the views of their constituents and for local organisations, such as Parish and Town Councils, to have their views taken into account in local decisions.

The Overview and Scrutiny function has an important role to play in ensuring that the voice and concerns of local people are represented in policy development and review discussions.

The Overview and Scrutiny function has a key role to play in holding the District Executive to account, as well as monitoring service standards and performance.

6.02 Scope of Scrutiny Committee

Within its terms of reference, Scrutiny Committee will discharge the overview and scrutiny functions conferred by section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and will:

- i) review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions other than development control and other quasi-judicial matters;
- ii) make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council and/or the District Executive and/or any joint committee or area committee in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- iii) consider any matter affecting the district or its inhabitants; and
- iv) exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, executive decisions made but not yet implemented by the District Executive, portfolio holders and/or any area committees.
- v) take an overview of policy development in line with the priorities of the Council.

6.03 Specific functions

(a) **Scrutiny.** Scrutiny Committee shall:

- i) review and scrutinise the decisions made by the District Executive and/or area 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, and/or particular service areas;
- iii) question members of the District Executive and/or area committees and senior 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 District Executive and/or area committees and/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).
- vii) commission overview commissions to undertake reviews of policy and report back to the Scrutiny Committee.

(b) **Overview Commissions**

An Overview Commission that comprises all the non-executive members will support the Scrutiny Committee in undertaking reviews in line with the functions set out above.

6.04 Proceedings of overview and scrutiny committees

Scrutiny Committee and the Overview Commission will conduct their proceedings in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.