

# Article 6 – Overview and Scrutiny Committees

## 6.01 Terms of Reference

The Council will appoint a lead overview and scrutiny committee, named the Scrutiny Coordinating Committee, and three themed Overview and Scrutiny Committees, to be known as Scrutiny Committees, to discharge the functions set out below.

- (a) To exercise the overview and scrutiny functions of the local authority, as set out in Part 1 A of the Local Government Act 2000, to consider, report or make recommendations regarding all such matters which are eligible for overview and scrutiny and which impact on the economic, social and environmental well-being of those who live, work and visit the city.
- (b) To exercise all those powers and functions that are otherwise available to the overview and scrutiny function of the local authority.
- (c) To agree annual Work Programmes which will allow overview and scrutiny responsibilities to be exercised in an effective manner, including the establishment of sub-committees.

### Scrutiny Coordinating Committee

The role of the Committee will be:

- (a) To agree the Annual Scrutiny report and refer it to Council for approval.
- (b) To review and scrutinise the functions of the Council relating in particular to:
  - The Budget
  - Corporate Plan
  - External assessments
  - Performance monitoring, quality standards and value for money
  - Property and facilities management
  - Information Technology
  - Organisational development
  - Workforce strategy
  - Governance
  - Customer service and communication
- (c) To act as the designated scrutiny committee for statutory purposes for health, crime and disorder scrutiny and flood risk.

- (d) Where matters fall within the remit of more than one thematic scrutiny committee, to determine where the issue should be allocated.

### **Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee**

The role of the Committee will be:

- (a) To review and scrutinise any matter relating to the service performance, service provision and the commissioning of health services for adults and children including:
- Adult social care
  - Mental health services
  - Public Health
  - Wellness
  - Decent Homes
- (b) To act as the designated scrutiny committee for statutory purposes for health.

### **Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee**

The role of the Committee will be to review and scrutinise any matter relating to the service performance and commissioning for children, young people and their families including:

- Safeguarding and child protection
- Family support and children's social care
- Corporate parenting
- Educational attainment and skills
- Relationship with schools
- Youth services

### **Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee**

The role of the Committee will be to review and scrutinise any matter relating to the economic prosperity of the city and the performance of services to support that including:

- Physical infrastructure
- Sector growth and skills
- Economic vibrancy
- Safer Sunderland
- Licensing and Trading Standards
- Strategic transport
- Environmental services
- Libraries, heritage and tourism

## 6.02 General role

Within its terms of reference, each 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 executive and/or any joint or area committee in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- iii) make reports and/or recommendations to partner organisations in connection with such matters as are eligible for local authority overview or scrutiny;
- iv) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants;
- v) exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the executive and/or area committees; and
- vi) consider Local Petitions and Councillor Calls for Action referred to it.

## 6.03 Specific functions

- a) Policy development and review.

The Scrutiny Committees may:

- i) assist the Council and the executive in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues including conducting research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- ii) question members of the executive and/or committees and chief officers or their representatives about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area; and
- iii) 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 Committees may:

- i) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the executive and/or 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 executive and/or 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 executive and/or appropriate committee 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 overview and 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 Committees may exercise overall responsibility for the finances made available to them.

(d) Annual Report

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee's Annual Report to full Council will report on the work undertaken by the Committees, and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

(e) Health Services

The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will be responsible for the review and scrutiny of matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services as provided for by the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

(f) Crime and Disorder

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee will be designated as the "Crime and Disorder Committee" as defined under the terms of the Police and Crime Act 2006 with responsibility for the review and scrutiny of crime and disorder matters.

(g) Flood and Coastal Erosion

The Scrutiny Coordinating Committee will be responsible for the scrutiny of issues relating to flood and coastal erosion risk management in accordance with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

#### **6.04 Proceedings of Scrutiny Committees**

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