
New Model for Scrutiny

Committee considering report: Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission on 17 October 2017

OSMC Chairman: Councillor Emma Webster

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1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To outline to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission (OSMC) how it is proposed to operate the new model for scrutiny going forward.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the update on the implementation of the new model for scrutiny which involves the integration of non-Executive Members (both Conservative and Liberal Democrat Members) into a range of existing activities and new initiatives.

Executive Summary

3. Introduction / Background

- 3.1 At its meeting on 9 May 2017 Council agreed to a new model for scrutiny based on retaining the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission (OSMC) and integrating non-Executive Members (both Conservative and Liberal Democrat Members) into existing groups which have been established to take forward a number of issues across a range of Council services.
- 3.2 This report outlines the continued role of the OSMC, how this new model will operate in practice and those groups identified for attendance by 'scrutineers'.

4. OSMC

- 4.1 With the Council's continuing financial challenges it is proposed to adopt a model for scrutiny which uses existing groups set up across a range of Council service areas. This model will accord with the Council's priority of "Becoming an even more effective Council" in that it will seek to use existing governance arrangements rather than establishing new groups which it would find difficult to manage and resource.
- 4.2 The new model will include OSMC which will meet on a quarterly basis in order that they can consider, amongst other things, the quarterly performance and financial management reports. It is proposed that OSMC will concentrate on areas of poor performance, including items referred to them by the Executive. The OSMC will also be responsible for monitoring the progress of any improvement plans (Ofsted etc) across the Council. OSMC will also be responsible for managing the call-in process.

5. Policy Development Groups

- 5.1 It is also proposed that scrutiny (policy development) activities be integrated into work already ongoing across the Council. This will mean that the Council does something once but uses the output from this many times. A list of the various Groups which lend themselves to "scrutiny" work is attached as Appendix "B".

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix A - Supporting Information
- 6.2 Appendix B - Informal Governance across the Council
- 6.3 Appendix C – Draft Scrutiny Councillor Role Description