

## **PART 2 – ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION**

### **Article 6 – Scrutiny Committees**

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#### **6.1 Terms of Reference, Size & Membership**

The Council has appointed the following Scrutiny Committees:

- (a) Children and Young People
- (b) Community and Adult Services
- (c) Economy and Culture
- (d) Environmental
- (e) Policy Review and Performance

to discharge the functions set out in the Terms of Reference shown in Appendix 2 to Part 3 of this Constitution. Each Scrutiny Committee shall be comprised of 9 elected Members. Membership of Scrutiny Committees is restricted to those Councillors who are not members of the Cabinet.

#### **6.2 General**

Within their terms of reference, Scrutiny Committees will:

- review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Authority's functions;
- make reports and/or recommendations to the Council and/or the Cabinet;
- consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants; and
- exercise the right to 'call-in', for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Cabinet, Cabinet Members and designated senior officers.
- Receive and consider reports from statutory external inspectors or auditors referred to them.
- Act in accordance with the Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

#### **6.3 Specific functions**

##### **(a) Policy Review and Performance**

The **Policy Review and Performance** Scrutiny Committee will:

- (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 relevant people and organisations about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area;
- (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; and
- (vi) adjudicate on any areas of overlap between the functions of the Scrutiny Committees and allocate any additional areas of responsibility which are not already included within the terms of reference of any particular Scrutiny Committee.

### **(b) Scrutiny**

Scrutiny Committees will:

- (i) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Cabinet and/or committees and employees both in relation to individual decisions and over time;
- (ii) review and scrutinise the performance of the Authority in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or service areas;
- (iii) question members of the Cabinet and committees and/or employees 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 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 scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance; and
- (vi) question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).

### **(c) Resources**

Scrutiny Committees may exercise overall responsibility for the resources made available to them.

### **(d) Annual Report**

Scrutiny Committees must report annually to the Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

#### 6.4 **Proceedings of Scrutiny Committees**

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