

Overview and Scrutiny Committees

1. Terms of Reference

The Council will appoint two scrutiny committees and a joint health overview and scrutiny committee as set out below. The two scrutiny committees will conduct their proceedings in accordance with the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules at Part 6.2 of the Constitution. The Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee is established in accordance with Article 8 of the Constitution.

The Council's Scrutiny Committees and Joint Health Overview & Committee will each meet at least 4 times a year and will have the membership indicated below. The chairman of the meetings will be the best person for the role, in the opinion of the committees, regardless of party affiliations.

2. General Role:

Within their specific terms, each scrutiny committee may:

- (i) establish their own working groups in order to explore issues further;
- (ii) review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
- (iii) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants;
- (iv) make reports and/or recommendations to the Council and/or the Cabinet in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- (v) conduct, as appropriate, any research, community or other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- (vi) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- (vii) question members of the Cabinet, ordinary committees and officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting Oxfordshire or about their decisions;
- (viii) report annually to full Council on their work and make recommendations for future work programmes as appropriate;

3. Performance Scrutiny Committee

The Performance Scrutiny Committee will have 10 members. Its terms of reference will be:

- (i) To review and scrutinise the performance of the Council and to provide a focused review of:
 - (a) Corporate performance and directorate performance and financial reporting
 - (b) Budget scrutiny
- (ii) To monitor the performance of the Council by means of effective key performance indicators, review of key action plans and obligations and through direct access to service managers, Cabinet Members and partners;
- (iii) To exercise the statutory right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by or on behalf of the Cabinet;
- (iv) To address any queries or issues of concern that may occur over decisions being taken in relation to adult social care;
- (v) To fulfil the Council's scrutiny responsibilities under the Crime and Justice Act 2006.

4. Education Scrutiny Committee

The Education Scrutiny Committee will have a membership of 11 county councillors plus 4 co-opted members. The county councillor membership will be politically proportional. The terms of reference of the Committee will be:

- (i) To focus on the following key areas:
 - (a) Constructive challenge on performance issues highlighting issues where the Committee can support the improvement dialogue;
 - (b) Reviewing the Council's education functions including early years, Special Education Needs and school place planning;
 - (c) Reviewing the progress of, and any issues emanating from, the School Organisation Stakeholder Group with regard to admissions patterns and arrangements;
 - (d) Reviewing issues raised by the Schools Forum;
- (ii) To assist the Council in its role of championing good educational outcomes for Oxfordshire's children and young people;

- (iii) To provide a challenge to schools and academies and to hold them to account for their academic performance;
- (iv) To promote joined up working across organisations in the education sector within Oxfordshire;
- (v) To review the bigger picture affecting academic achievement in the county so as to facilitate the achievement of good outcomes;
- (vi) To represent the community of Oxfordshire in the development of academic achievement across the county, including responding to formal consultations and participating in inter-agency discussions;
- (vii) To contribute to the development of educational policy in the county;

5. Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee will have a membership of 7 county councillors plus 5 district councillors and 3 co-opted members. The Joint Committee was formed under Section 8 of the Health & Social Care Act 2001 to discharge the County Council's functions under that Act.