

Report to the Overview & Scrutiny Task & Finish Panel

Date of meeting: 21 January 2019



Subject: Overview & Scrutiny Select Committee Framework - Review

Officer contact for further information: S. Tautz (01992) 564180

Democratic Services Officer: S. Tautz (01992) 564180

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Panel note the scope and timescale for its review of the current overview and scrutiny select committee framework.

1. The Panel will be aware that the implementation of the Council's People Strategy has progressed as far as the appointment of new Strategic Directors and Service Directors. The Council's new senior management structure comprises seven new service directorates covering the operations of the authority and the Leader of the Council has recently realigned the responsibilities of the Cabinet to reflect the management structure and achieve improved efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of the Council's services. It therefore remains appropriate to also review the alignment of the overview and scrutiny framework with the executive and senior management structure going forward.
2. At its meeting on 29 October 2018, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a proposal for the establishment of a new overview and scrutiny select committee framework to complement the new executive and senior management structure. The report made to the Committee at its meeting on 29 October 2018, setting out the detailed proposal for the establishment of a new overview and scrutiny framework based on a structure of two cross-service select committees, is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
3. At that time, the Committee expressed concern at the perceived limitation of capacity for scrutiny activities arising from the proposed reduction in the number of select committees and deferred consideration of the proposed new framework to allow appropriate consultation on the proposal to be carried out amongst all members of the Council. Consultation on the proposed new select committee framework was undertaken through the Council Bulletin commencing on during November 2018 and the results of the consultation exercise were considered by the Committee at its meeting on 18 December 2018.
4. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that this Task and Finish Panel be established to consider the proposals previously developed and any other options for the select committee framework and to report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on proposals for the establishment of a new framework arrangement. The terms of reference and work programme for the Panel were agreed by the Committee in December 2018.
5. The Panel will need to work quickly, in order that the establishment of an appropriate select committee framework with effect from the commencement of the 2019/20 municipal year can be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its

meeting in April 2019. Leadership Team has recently considered a range of options for the establishment of a new overview and scrutiny select committee framework, which will be presented at the meeting.

Resource Implications:

The recommendations of this report seek to enable scrutiny activity to more effectively meet work programme requirements.

Legal and Governance Implications:

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:

There are no implications arising from the recommendations of this report in respect of the Council's commitment to the Climate Local Agreement, the corporate Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative, or any crime and disorder issues within the district.

Consultation Undertaken:

At its meeting on 29 October 2018, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the proposed establishment of a new overview and scrutiny select committee framework. Consultation on the proposed new select committee framework was undertaken through the Council Bulletin commencing on 2 November 2018.

Background Papers:

None.

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities.

Equality:

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report.