

# OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

## **Statement of Purpose**

The Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees have been appointed to discharge the functions conferred by Section 21 and 21A of the Local Government Act 2000, the Police & Justice Act 2006 and the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 in relation to the work of Full Council, Council's established Committees and other external bodies.

The Council has appointed two Overview & Scrutiny Committees: an Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee and an External Overview & Scrutiny Committee. As a guide:-

### **Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

The Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee will exercise its functions in respect of the Council's policies, decisions, performance framework and actions with an "*inward facing*" emphasis.

### **External Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

The External Overview & Scrutiny Committee will exercise its functions in respect of the performance of partners and external Public Sector bodies and Council services with an "*outward facing*" emphasis on the area of Torridge and its inhabitants.

The Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees will conduct their functions in accordance with the following principles:-

- a) provide a "*critical friend*" challenge to decision makers and external bodies and agencies;
- b) reflect the voice and concerns of the public and the community;
- c) take the lead and own the scrutiny process on behalf of the public;  
and
- d) endeavour to make an impact to improve the delivery of public services.

## **Terms of Reference, Function and Responsibilities – Applicable to Both Overview & Scrutiny Committees**

The following Terms of Reference, functions and responsibilities shall apply equally to both The Internal and External Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Either of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees shall:-

- a) exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Council and/or any committees of the Council in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and to recommend that either the decision be reconsidered or that the decision be exercised/implemented by the Council;
- b) hear any matter brought to it as a Community Call for Action under powers adopted under section 21A Local Government Act 2000 and make any necessary reports and/or recommendations on the same;
- c) make reports and/or recommendations to Full Council and/or any Committees in connection with the discharge of any of their functions;
- d) assist the Council and its Community & Resources Committee in the development of its Budget and Policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
- e) question Members of the Council's Committees and in particular, as appropriate, the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Chief Officer regarding their views on issues and proposals affecting the District;
- f) make recommendations to the Council's Committees and/or Full Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- g) question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent); and
- h) call officers to account under the relevant Petition Scheme from time to time in force and contained at Part 7, Chapter 1 of the Constitution.

### **Finance**

The Overview & Scrutiny Committees may exercise overall responsibility for any budgets made available to them.

### **Annual Report**

Each Overview & Scrutiny Committee will report annually to Full Council on its workings, and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods as necessary.

### **Officers**

The Overview & Scrutiny Committees may exercise overall responsibility for the work programme of the Officers employed to support their work

## **Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Terms of Reference, Function and Responsibilities**

The following Terms of Reference, functions and responsibilities shall apply to the Council's Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee only. The Council's Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee shall:-

- a) review and/or scrutinise decisions made, or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions including decisions taken by the Community & Resources Committee or by an Officer;
- b) review matters previously decided by the Community and Resources Committee of the Council and matters referred to it by Full Council under the Referral Procedure set out in Part 4 Chapter 4 of this Constitution;
- c) exercise any of its functions in respect of decisions relating to the overall resource of the Council, both land and finance;
- d) monitor the overall budget of the Council and ensure compliance with that budget (both revenue and capital) and the Council's assets, including arrangements for audit and review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
- e) monitor compliance with the Council's overall policy framework;
- f) monitor the efficient administration of the Council's trading responsibilities;
- g) question members of the Community & Resources Committee 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 project
- h) consider Ombudsman reports as relevant to the Community & Resources Committee.

## **Composition of both Internal and External Overview & Scrutiny Committees**

1. The Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees shall be made up of up to twelve (12) Members.
2. Membership of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee shall be made up as follows:-
  - a) Nine (9) District Councillors; and
  - b) Up to three (3) Non-Elected Representatives.
3. The quorum shall be six (6).
4. Non-Elected Representatives are entitled to vote at Committee meetings in accordance with the Council's adopted Voting Scheme.