

Article 6 - Scrutiny Boards

6.01 Terms of Reference

The Council will appoint the scrutiny boards set out below to discharge the functions conferred by Section 21 (Overview and Scrutiny Committees) of the Local Government Act 2000, Regulations under Section 32 of the Local Government Act 2000 and other statutes, regulations or directions subsequently taking effect, in relation to the matters within with terms of reference of the respective boards.

Children’s Services and Education
Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment
Health and Adult Social Care
Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities

The Council will also appoint a co-ordinating scrutiny board called the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board. The remit of this Board is detailed in Part 4 Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

The terms of reference of the scrutiny boards are set out as Appendix 3 to Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Constitution.

6.02 General Role

Within their terms of reference scrutiny boards:-

- (i) will review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council’s functions and responsibilities;
- (ii) will make reports and/or recommendations to the Council and/or the executive and/or any committee in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- (iii) will consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants, including the operation of any partner organisations;
- (iv) will consider referrals to call-in, for deliberation, decisions made but not yet implemented by the executive and/or any non Quasi-Judicial committees; and
- (v) will consider referrals under the Call for Action process.

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6.03 Specific Functions

- (a) **Policy Development and Review** - Scrutiny boards may:-
- (i) assist the Council and the executive in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
 - (ii) conduct research and undertake community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and on possible options;
 - (iii) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
 - (iv) question members of the executive and/or committees and chief officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area; and
 - (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.
- (b) **Scrutiny** - Scrutiny boards may:-
- (i) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and the performance of the executive and/or committees and Council officers;
 - (ii) review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, corporate priorities and/or particular service areas;
 - (iii) question members of the executive and/or committees 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 projects;
 - (iv) make recommendations to the executive and/or appropriate committee and/or the Council arising from the outcome of scrutiny; within the terms of reference of the particular scrutiny board, review and scrutinise the policies and performance of the Council's partner organisations, service and delivery agencies and other public bodies in the area and, where deemed necessary, invite reports from them by requesting them to address the relevant scrutiny board and local people about their activities and performance; and
 - (vi) question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).
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- (c) **Finance** – The Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board and scrutiny boards may exercise overall responsibility for the finances made available to them.
- (d) **Annual Report** - The Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board will report annually to the Council on its work and that of its boards and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods, if appropriate.
- (e) **Officers** – The Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board and scrutiny boards may exercise responsibility for the work programme of the officers employed to support their work.

6.04 Proceedings of Scrutiny Boards

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