

Article 6 – Overview and Scrutiny Committees

6.1 Appointment and Remit

At its Annual Meeting, Full Council will appoint Overview and Scrutiny Committees to review and scrutinise the discharge of the Council's executive functions and the effectiveness of the Council's policies. The Council's three current Overview and Scrutiny Committees are:

Communities and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee is responsible for:

- Anti-social behaviour, community safety and local policing
- Aubers Ridge Management Company Ltd
- Benefit claims
- Community cohesion
- Community funding and volunteering
- Community right to bid
- Community well-being
- Council housing services
- Customer services
- Disabled facilities grant
- Equality and diversity
- Gravitas Housing Ltd
- Parish and town council liaison
- Procurement
- Safeguarding and individual wellbeing
- Strategic housing services

Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee is responsible for:

- Arts and culture
- Heritage
- Markets and fairs
- Sport and physical activity
- Leisure SK Ltd
- Visitor economy

Finance, Economic and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee is responsible for:

- Alcohol, entertainment and leisure licensing (Policy)
- Air quality
- Allotments
- Animal welfare licensing (Policy)
- Budget monitoring
- Budget setting
- Business rate relief
- Business trade and licensing (Policy)
- Business transformation
- Car parks, bus stations and town centre infrastructure
- Charitable rate relief
- Commercial, industrial and clinical waste collection and management
- Council-owned property, assets and maintenance (non-council house)
- Customer access strategy
- Data protection reporting
- Dog breeding and control orders
- Domestic waste and recycling management
- Economic development
- Energy efficiency
- Environment SK Ltd
- Environment SK Commercial Services Ltd
- Estate and grounds maintenance
- Fees and charges
- Flooding
- Food hygiene and safety
- Health and safety
- Large-scale development projects
- Licensing (Policy)
- Medium term financial planning and national funding proposals
- Noise
- Performance reporting
- Public conveniences
- Renewable energy
- Review of outturn
- Scrap metal dealers
- Shop front designs and funding
- Street furniture
- Street lighting
- Street services and green open space management
- Town centre developments and partnerships

6.2 Membership

Full Council will appoint Councillors to Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the number of which will be dependent upon the size of each individual Committee as set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules at Part 4 of this Constitution.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees will comply with the political balance rules in Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Cabinet Members cannot be Members of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6.3 Role and Function

Overview and Scrutiny Committees must conduct their proceedings in accordance with the principles of Council Procedure Rules and Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution, other than those rules which only apply to meetings of Full Council.

In addition, Overview and Scrutiny Committees will carry out their duties in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules contained in Part 4 of this Constitution.

6.4 Annual Report

Overview and Scrutiny Committees must report annually to Full Council the work they have carried out over the previous municipal year.

6.5 Joint Working of Overview and Scrutiny Committees

The Chairman of the Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee will carry out the following functions:

- i) To chair a meeting for all Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees to scrutinise the Council's proposed budget in accordance with the Budget Procedure Rules contained in Part 4 of this Constitution.
- ii) To chair a meeting, when necessary, of the Chairmen of all Overview and Scrutiny Committees to determine which Overview and Scrutiny Committee, having regard to prescribed areas of interest and existing workloads, may most appropriately be tasked to undertake work on a proposed item for consideration.

- iii) To chair a meeting of the Chairmen of all Overview and Scrutiny Committees to determine the content of the Overview and Scrutiny annual report.

The Vice-Chairman of the Finance, Economic Development and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee will support the Chairman in relation to the above meetings and chair the meetings in their absence. In the absence of the Vice-Chairman, a Vice-Chairman will be elected from those in attendance at the respective meeting, for that meeting only.