

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD 19 JUNE 2017**

### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ROLE AND REMITS**

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#### **Summary**

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) is asked to:
  - (a) Consider the aims of overview and scrutiny and note its remit;
  - (b) Note the remits of each Overview and Scrutiny Panel;
  - (c) Designate one Member as the lead member for Crime and Disorder matters; and
  - (d) Agree whether consideration of the Children and Young People's Plan 2017-21 should be delegated to the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

#### **Aims of Overview and Scrutiny**

2. Overview and scrutiny aims to add value to the Council's decision-making process and make a positive contribution to policy development by:
  - Supporting the Council in achieving its vision for the County and its strategic aims and priorities;
  - Promoting open and transparent decision-making, democratic accountability and holding the Cabinet to account for its actions; and
  - Promoting continuous improvement, best practice and innovation in Council services.
3. The key roles are:
  - To hold the Cabinet to account;
  - To review or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken by Cabinet or Council in connection with discharge of any of the Council's functions;
  - To review or scrutinise the performance of the Council and the Cabinet in relation to policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas; and
  - To make reports and/or recommendations to Council or the Cabinet in connection with the above or on any matters affecting the county or its inhabitants.

#### **Remit of the OSPB**

4. The role of the OSPB is to:
  - Set out an outline work programme for scrutiny, which will be agreed by Council;

- Commission scrutiny work through itself, scrutiny task groups, or the overview and scrutiny panels;
- Ensure that scrutiny carries out its performance monitoring role;
- Comment itself, or through the overview and scrutiny panels, on the Council's key plans;
- Decide whether and how call-in requests are pursued;
- Deal with the budget scrutiny process;
- Ensure that scrutiny is carried out effectively;
- Highlight member training needs for scrutiny; and
- Act as the County Council's Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **Lead scrutiny member role**

5. Members of the OSPB take a lead role in scrutiny for the remit they cover. As part of this, it has been agreed that they should attend regular Directorate and Cabinet Member briefings. These will assist Scrutiny to engage early in developments, and will help identify suitable items for Scrutiny. To ensure that all members of OSPB are kept informed, lead scrutiny members will be asked to feed back on any emerging issues and developments that have been raised in the briefings and in Panel meetings.

6. OSPB Members may also lead scrutiny task groups. It will be important for the OSPB to be aware of how each scrutiny is developing so that they can fully consider the final report. Members will therefore be asked to update the OSPB on the progress of any scrutiny task groups.

### **Overview and Scrutiny Panel Remits**

7. The remits of the OSPB, Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) and the Overview and Scrutiny Panels are attached as Appendix 1.

8. Overview and scrutiny panels generally meet every two months but can meet more frequently if the need arises. The scrutiny programme for each panel will be commissioned and agreed by the OSPB and may comprise:

- Performance monitoring and quality assurance
- Budget scrutiny
- Pre-decision scrutiny
- In-depth reviews
- Short scrutinies (one-off meetings)
- Updates on progress on previous scrutinies

9. Scrutiny Panels will be briefed on their role and remits throughout June. Members of the OSPB are asked to consider the Scrutiny Panel remits and comment as necessary.

10. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinises matters relating to health services in the County and responds to consultation from the National Health Service on substantial proposed developments.

## **Areas of Responsibility: Crime and Disorder**

11. County and District Councillors have powers to scrutinise the work of crime and disorder reduction partnerships - in Worcestershire these are known as Community Safety Partnerships - to ensure they are effectively tackling local problems.

12. The OSPB has been designated as the County Council's crime and disorder overview and scrutiny committee. The OSPB is required to meet at least annually to discuss issues relating to crime and disorder.

13. To avoid duplication, the previous OSPB agreed to carry out light-touch scrutiny of crime and disorder, engaging with partners and the Worcestershire Safer Communities Board at least once a year, leaving the District Councils to carry out in-depth scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnerships in Worcestershire.

14. The Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia is held to account by the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel. Crime and disorder scrutiny committees therefore do not have any power to require the Commissioner to attend. It is expected that the OSPB's link with the Commissioner will be via Worcestershire County Council's representative on the Police and Crime Panel.

15. Previously, one member of the Board was designated as the lead scrutiny member for Crime and Disorder matters. The Board is asked to designate one member as the lead member for Crime and Disorder matters.

## **Children and Young People's Plan**

16. A new Children and Young People's Plan for 2017-2021 is currently being developed. According to the Council's constitution, the OSPB will receive, comment and advise on the Plan as part of the Council's policy framework. It will then be signed off by the Health and Well-Being Board and Cabinet in July, before being agreed by Council in September.

17. In previous years, consideration of the Children and Young People's Plan has been undertaken by the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel (or predecessor body), under delegation from the OSPB. Members of the OSPB are asked to confirm that they are content for the Children and Families O&S Panel to consider the Plan at its meeting on 21 June 2017 and forward any comments to the CMR and Health and Well-Being Board.

## **Supporting Information**

Appendix 1: Extract from the Scheme of Assignment of Responsibility for Functions from the County Council's Constitution

## **Contact Point for the Report**

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## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board held on 27 June 2013

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)