

General terms of reference for scrutiny committees/sub-committees

Within their agreed policy scope, all scrutiny committees/sub-committees will:

- a) produce a one year rolling work programme, which will be approved by the overview and scrutiny committee
- b) review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the council's functions
- c) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the cabinet and council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time in areas covered by its terms of reference
- d) review and scrutinise the performance of the council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas
- e) question members of the cabinet and 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 and about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area
- f) assist council assembly and the cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues
- g) make reports and recommendations to the cabinet and or council assembly arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process
- h) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants
- i) 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
- j) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance
- k) conduct research and consultation on the analysis of policy issues and possible options
- l) question and gather evidence from any other person (with their consent)
- m) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the scrutiny process and in the development of policy options
- n) conclude inquiries promptly and normally within six months