

Item 2:

Work programme 2006/07 - scrutiny terms of reference

Scrutiny Committee	Scope
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<p>General scrutiny terms of reference</p> <p>OSC specific terms of reference</p> <p>Relevant Executive portfolios:</p> <p>Leader Deputy Leader (non housing aspects of this portfolio) Citizenship, Equalities and communities</p>
Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee	<p>General scrutiny terms of reference <i>(refer to appendix A)</i></p> <p>To work closely with the health and adult care sub-committee on any matter relating to children’s health</p> <p>Relevant Executive portfolio:</p> <p>Children’s Services and education <i>(refer to appendix B)</i></p>
Environment and Community Support Scrutiny Sub-Committee	<p>General scrutiny terms of reference</p> <p>Relevant Executive portfolios:</p> <p>Environment Community Safety Culture, Leisure and Sport</p>
Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee	<p>General scrutiny terms of reference</p> <p>Scrutiny of NHS bodies using the powers in the Health and Social Care Act 2001</p> <p>To work closely with the children’s services and education sub-committee on any matter relating to children’s health</p> <p>Relevant Executive portfolios:</p> <p>Health and adult care</p>

<p>Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee</p>	<p>General scrutiny terms of reference</p> <p>To work closely with the regeneration and resources sub-committee on any matter relating to housing renewal</p> <p>Relevant Executive portfolios:</p> <p>Deputy Leader (all housing aspects of this portfolio)</p>
<p>Regeneration and Resources Scrutiny Sub-Committee</p>	<p>General scrutiny terms of reference</p> <p>To work closely with the housing sub-committee on any matter relating to housing renewal</p> <p>Relevant Executive portfolios:</p> <p>Resources Regeneration</p>

Appendix A: general scrutiny terms of reference

Note: these terms of reference are part of Southwark's constitution and apply to all scrutiny committees irrespective of their specific brief.

Within their terms of reference, all scrutiny committees/sub-committees will:

- (a) Produce a one year rolling work programme, which will be approved by the co-ordinating overview & scrutiny committee;
- (b) Review and/or 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 executive 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 executive 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 executive in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
- (g) Make reports and recommendations to the executive and or council assembly arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process or refer entire reports produced as a result of the scrutiny process to be debated and noted at council assembly;
- (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/sub-committee and local people about their activities and performance;
- (k) Conduct research, community and other consultation in 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; and
- (n) Conclude inquiries promptly and normally within six months.

Appendix B: relevant executive member portfolio

General remit for all executive members

All executive members will be publicly accountable for the actions of the council and provide community leadership for the borough. This will include specific responsibility for:

- Proactive community engagement of Southwark's diverse communities in order to promote the work of the council, to promote engagement in decisions and activities relating to the council and to improve council awareness and responsiveness to community needs and aspirations.
- Promoting good communication of the work of the council, its plans and objectives in order to improve public understanding and support for the work of the council and its partners.
- Representing the council with external bodies and agencies in order to promote the work of the council and the council's interests and to improve council influence with external bodies, particularly government.
- The development of clear, ambitious and affordable policies and strategies for services which are consistent with the council's wider objectives, particularly the community strategy, and are consistent with the council's cross-cutting objectives.
- Setting clear priorities and performance objectives, which are consistent with policy and strategic objectives, and ensuring these are properly communicated and performance managed.
- Ensuring that resources are efficiently managed within allocations set by council and that risk is well managed.
- Specific projects as agreed with the Leader of the Council.

Children's services and education executive member remit

To assume the statutory role of lead member for children's services, including responsibility for children's social care, services for schools and pupils, early years and youth services, the inclusion agenda, and work to develop and implement the Children and Young People's Plan. The portfolio holder will also be responsible for post-16 education and adult learning and will work closely with the executive member for health and social care with regard to children's health.

The portfolio holder will have particular responsibility for:

- The integration of the new children's service, including realizing efficiencies
- Ensuring that co-ordinated action is delivering improved outcomes, including improvements to attainment and achievement for all children and young people
- The Southwark Schools for the Future programme
- A strategy for expanding or rationalizing primary provision where necessary
- Opening up new Children's Centres and ensuring coherent and sufficient provision of quality, affordable childcare

- Healthy, nutritionally balanced meals for school children
- Taking forward the work of the Race Equality Education Forum
- Safeguarding children, including ensuring that all staff understand their responsibility for child protection and that all relevant agencies share responsibility for safeguarding and promoting welfare
- The corporate parenting role for children looked after by the council
- Monitoring the expenditure of direct schools grant and level of balances
- Ensuring fair, coordinated admissions arrangements to all schools of every type