

## Article 7 - Overview and Scrutiny Commission

### 7.01 Terms of Reference

The Council will have one Overview and Scrutiny Commission, which will be responsible for all overview and scrutiny functions on behalf of the Council.

The Commission will appoint 3 sub-committees, referred to as overview and scrutiny committees, to fulfil such overview and scrutiny functions as may be delegated by the Commission. The Commission will consist of:

12 elected Members – comprising a chair, the chairs of the 3 overview and scrutiny Committees and 8 additional members to provide political balance on the Commission; 2 voting Church representatives;

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees will consist of 10 elected Members.

No member of the Cabinet shall be a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission or Committees. The Commission and Committee are appointed on the terms of reference, referred to in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution and outlined below:

<u>Commission</u>	<u>Scope</u>
Overview and Scrutiny Commission	Responsibility for: all overview and scrutiny functions and parent committee/ co-ordination role for the Committees; corporate/authority-wide issues; a major role in the budget formulation process and receiving financial monitoring reports.
<u>Committee</u>	<u>Scope</u>
Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee	The provision, planning, management and performance of services for children and young people, including a call-in role for issues within the Committee's remit.
Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee	The provision, planning, management and performance of public health, social and health care, elderly persons and mental welfare services in St Helens, and the planning and operation of health services, including a call-in role for issues within the Committee's remit.

Place Scrutiny Committee	Borough-wide economic development, environment, regeneration, housing, culture, tourism, leisure, libraries, flood risk management, crime and disorder and community safety partnership issues, including a call-in role for issues within the Committee's remit.
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## 7.02 **General Role**

To the extent authorised by the Commission and included within their terms of reference, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees will:

- i) review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
- ii) make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council and/or the Cabinet in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- iii) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants; and
- iv) exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Cabinet.

## 7.03 **Specific Functions**

(a) **Policy development and review.** To the extent authorised by the Commission and included within their terms of reference, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees may:

- i) assist the Council and the Cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
- ii) conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- iii) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;

- iv) question Members of the Cabinet and/or committees and Executive Directors 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.** To the extent authorised by the Commission and included within their terms of reference, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees may:

- i) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Cabinet and committees and Council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time;
- ii) review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
- iii) question Members of the Cabinet and committees and Executive Directors 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 Cabinet and appropriate committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- v) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them about their activities and performance; and
- vi) question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).

- (c) **Finance.** The Overview and Scrutiny Committees may exercise overall responsibility for the finances made available to them.
- (d) **Annual report.** The Overview and Scrutiny Commission must report annually to full Council on its workings and that of its Committees, and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.
- (e) **Officers.** The Overview and Scrutiny Commission may exercise overall responsibility for the work programme of the officers employed to support their work.

#### 7.04 **Proceedings of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission**

The Overview and Scrutiny Commission and its Committees will conduct its proceedings in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.