

Agenda Item No: 5

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny (Resources)

Date of Meeting: 24 February 2014

Report Title: Overview and Scrutiny Charter

Report By: Jane Hartnell
Head of Corporate Services

Purpose of Report

Members of the committee are invited to sign up to an Overview and Scrutiny Charter, which sets out the objectives of the Overview and Scrutiny function.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. that Members approve the Overview and Scrutiny Charter, and;**
- 2. the Overview and Scrutiny Charter is published on the council's website.**

Reasons for Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Charter sets out the principles of the Overview and Scrutiny function, and its impact on key stakeholders.

Introduction

1. As part of their work programme for 2013/14, Members agreed to draft an Overview and Scrutiny Charter.
2. The Charter was intended to make clear to Members of Overview and Scrutiny committees, the council's partners and the public what they can expect from the Overview and Scrutiny function.
3. It is intended that the completed Charter will be published on the council's website and a press release issued to raise awareness of the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny function.

Working Group

4. Councillors Davies, Gurney, Rogers and Webb formed a working group, Chaired by Councillor Poole, to draft the Overview and Scrutiny Charter.
5. Officer support was provided to the working group by Mark Horan, Senior Corporate and Democratic Services Officer and Michael Courts, Corporate and Democratic Services Officer.
6. The working group examined the principles and objectives which underpin the work of Overview and Scrutiny, and the roles of Members and council officers in meeting these objectives.
7. Members considered the impact of the Overview and Scrutiny function on local residents and the council's partner organisations. The working group sought to address the expectations of each of these groups within the Charter.
8. Best practice, together with examples of Overview and Scrutiny Charters from other authorities, was also considered by the group.
9. Members suggested that the Charter could also act a learning resource, by including web links to related content.
10. The Charter would also highlight the work already undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny function, by including links to previous Scrutiny reviews.
11. Members of the working group approved a draft Charter at their meeting on Wednesday, 13 November 2013. The draft Charter was then circulated to all Overview and Scrutiny Members by email, for their consideration.
12. Scrutiny Steering Group considered the draft Charter at their meeting on Monday, 20 January 2014. The group made an amendment to the list of web links included on the Charter, which has been incorporated into a revised draft.

Wards Affected

All

Area(s) Affected

All

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)
Risk Management
Environmental Issues
Economic/Financial Implications
Human Rights Act
Organisational Consequences
Local People's Views

Background Information

Appendix A – Draft Overview and Scrutiny Charter

Officer to Contact

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