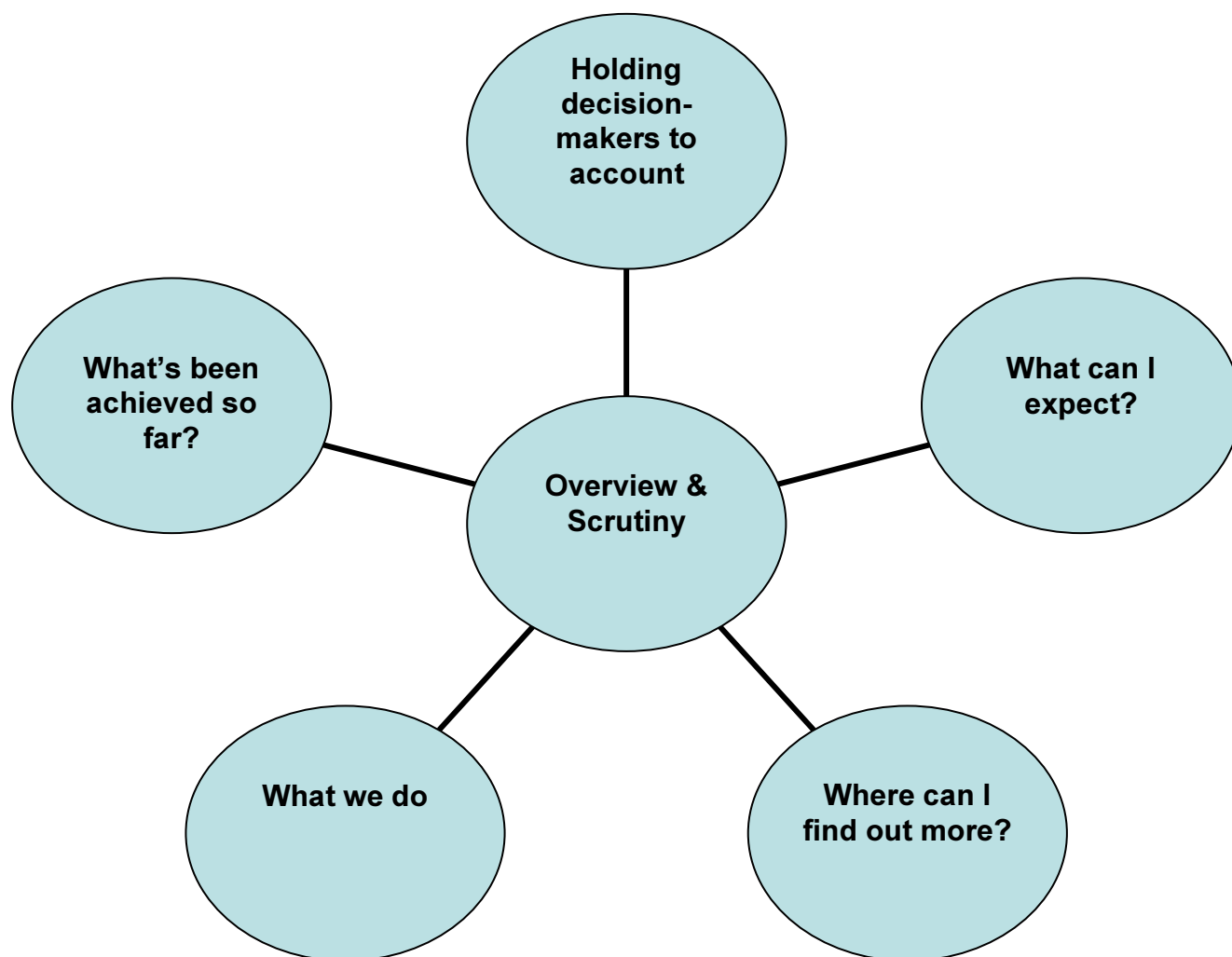


APPENDIX A – HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY CHARTER *(Draft)*



What does Overview and Scrutiny do?

Overview and Scrutiny holds decision makers accountable for their decisions and makes sure the council works in a way which is clear and easy to understand. Overview and Scrutiny also keeps track of how the council is achieving its priorities and looks at improvements to the way we do things. A key part of Overview and Scrutiny is working with the local community, so you can tell us what's important to you and have your say.

What can I expect from Overview and Scrutiny?

As a local resident:

Overview and Scrutiny will:

- be a 'critical friend' to decision makers, and make sure the council is achieving its priorities in the most efficient way possible.
- look at issues which are important to the local community.

APPENDIX A – HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY CHARTER (Draft)

- listen to your views and use these to help design new council policies and strategies.

As an Overview and Scrutiny Member:

- Overview and Scrutiny is an a-political process, all Members will be given the opportunity contribute at meetings and ask questions of Lead Members, officers and other attendees.
- Members will be encouraged to take an active role in committee meetings, reviews and the wider Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme.
- If Members have invited a representative from an outside organisation to attend a meeting, Members questioning must be appropriate.
- Overview and Scrutiny Members will make an important contribution to formulating the Council's priorities and budget, and monitoring their implementation.

As a partner organisation:

- Those assisting the committee by giving evidence will be treated with respect and courtesy.
- Members questioning will be relevant to the topic being discussed, where possible a list of questions will be provided to the attendee in advance of the meeting.
- Any minutes, reports or recommendations arising from the meeting, will be sent to the partner organisation, for their information.
- Whilst outside organisations can not be compelled to attend Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings, their continued co-operation is appreciated.

What has Overview and Scrutiny achieved so far?

Overview and Scrutiny Members have been looking at a number of issues which affect the town – from Higher Education to Highways and monitoring how the council is doing against targets local residents have helped us set. Full details can be found at:

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/decisions_democracy/transparency/overview_scrutiny/scrutiny_reviews/

If you have a suggestion about what we should look at next, send us your views at:

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/decisions_democracy/transparency/our_views/

Overview and Scrutiny Committees

There are two Overview and Scrutiny Committees – Services and Resources. Details of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings, including membership, can be found at:

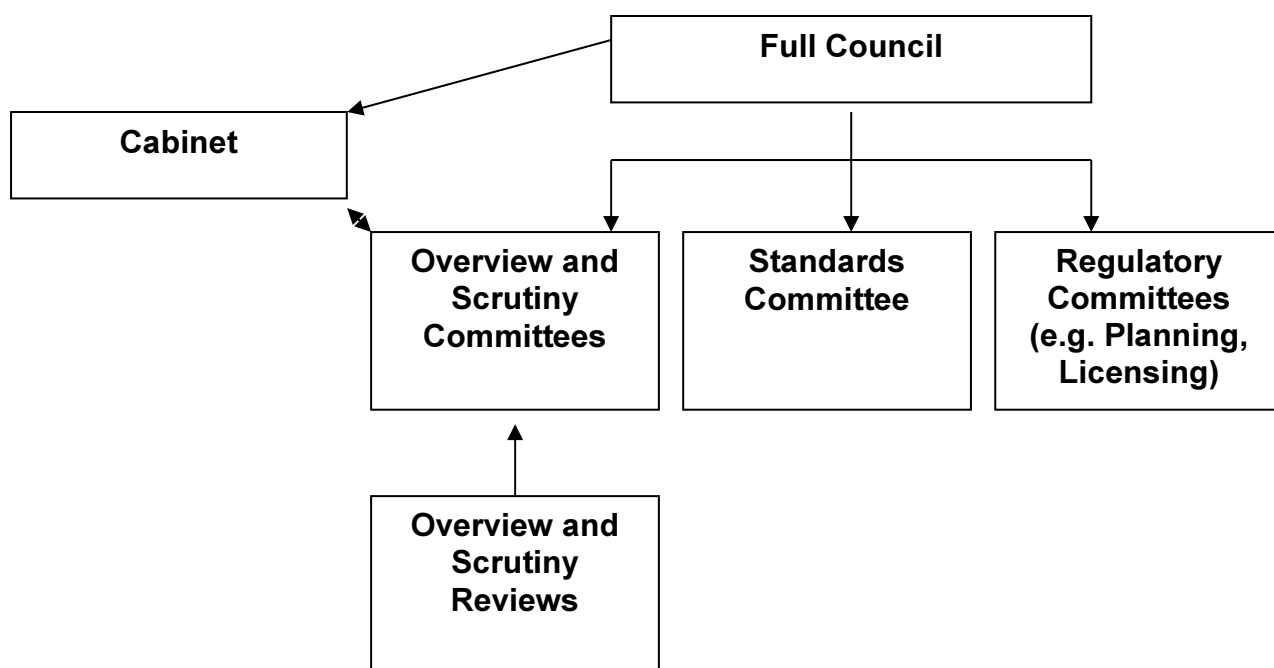
APPENDIX A – HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY CHARTER (Draft)

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/decisions_democracy/transparency/overview_scrutiny/

Overview and Scrutiny meetings are open for members of the public to observe. The agenda, reports and minutes of meetings can be found at:

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/decisions_democracy/council_meetings/meetings/

How does Overview and Scrutiny fit into the council's committee structure?



Where can I find out more?

<http://www.cfps.org.uk/>

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/decisions_democracy/transparency/overview_scrutiny/

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/using_this_site/find_faster/search/?query=forward+plan

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/decisions_democracy/how_we_make_decisions/policies_strategies/corporate_plan/

http://www.hastings.gov.uk/decisions_democracy/how_we_make_decisions/constitution_committees/constitution/

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/committees/default.htm>