

Resources Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Members' Briefing

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Agenda

- The Council's Decision Making Process
- Forward Plan
- Overview & Scrutiny
- Review of Scrutiny
- Role of the Resources Overview & Scrutiny Panel
- Developing a Work Programme
- Task & Finish Groups
- Role of Officers



The Council's Decision-making process

Council

Sets the budget and policy framework

Executive
Decision
Making

Regulatory
Committees

The Cabinet &
Delegated
Decisions

Overview &
Scrutiny Panels &
Sub-Committees

Planning Apps.
Licensing & Reg.
Standards
Audit & Accounts

Scrutiny

Forward Plan

- Key Decisions due to be made by the Cabinet in the next three month period.
- 'Key Decision' criteria:
 - *"One likely to result in **expenditure** or **savings** which are **significant** having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates."*

Or

- *"To be **significant** in terms of its **effect on communities** living or working in an area **comprising two or more District Wards.**"*

Overview & Scrutiny

- Local Government Act 2000
- Overview & Scrutiny Panels:
 - Key element of the Council's Corporate Governance Structure
 - Help shape Council Policy
 - Hold the Cabinet to account
 - Consider matters affecting the Council's area or its inhabitants
 - Scrutinise services provided by our partners, such as the Fire & Rescue Service, Health and the Police
- Overview & Scrutiny Panels do not have a decision-making role but can make recommendations



Review of Scrutiny

- Conducted by Centre for Governance and Scrutiny
- Concluded that scrutiny has the conditions for success and made recommendations for further improvement - approved by Full Council:
 - Creation of Overview & Scrutiny Programming Group:
 - Work Programme Prioritisation
 - Member Development
 - Panel Structure - Resources Overview & Scrutiny Panel now has a standing sub-committee – Finance & Performance

Role of the Resources Overview & Scrutiny Panel

- Remit includes:
 - Budget
 - Resource allocation
 - Accessibility of services
 - Strategic Alliance and efficiencies
 - Corporate Plan
 - Performance
 - Procurement
 - Staffing
 - Asset management
- Key areas of challenge:
 - financial planning
 - performance management



Developing a Work Programme

- Work programme to be developed using a prioritisation tool:
 - **P**ublic Interest
 - **A**bility to change/influence
 - **P**erformance
 - **E**xtent – coverage of District
 - **R**eplication – avoid duplication
- Develop further following priority setting workshop this summer
- Regular reports, e.g. medium term financial plan and financial & performance monitoring to be considered by the Finance & Performance Standing Sub-Committee



Task and Finish Groups

- Facility to establish “task and finish” groups
- Appointed to investigate, research and advise on a specific issue
- Report back to Panel with recommendations

Role of Officers

- Executive Director allocated to each Panel – close working with members, agenda planning etc.
- Officers from service areas help provide research and information for topics on agendas
- Democratic Services team support each Panel



Questions