

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Agenda Item 47

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Comparative Scrutiny Information		
Date of Meeting:	20 October 2009		
Report of:	Director of Strategy and Governance		
Contact Officer: Name:	Tom Hook	Tel:	29-1110
	E-mail:	Tom.hook@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report sets out for discussion:
- Comparative information as to how a number of Local Authorities discharge their Overview & Scrutiny (O&S) function;
 - Some instances of good practice in O&S across England and Wales.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Commission notes the report.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 It was agreed as part of the six month review of the constitution that a good practice review of scrutiny practice within local authorities should be undertaken.
- 3.2 Appendix one sets out some preliminary findings of the review. This piece of work is ongoing. The purpose of this report is to share some early findings to stimulate discussion on the future of the scrutiny function.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation is ongoing.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of the report

Finance Officer consulted: Anne Silley

Date: 9 October 2009

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The council's overview and scrutiny function must operate in accordance with sections 21 and 21A to 21E of the Local Government Act 2000. Any proposed changes to overview and scrutiny arising from this good practice comparison should be checked for compliance with these statutory provisions before implementation.

Lawyer consulted: Oliver Dixon

Date: 7 October 2009

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no direct crime & disorder implications arising from this report

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 There are no direct risk or opportunity management implications arising from this report.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The Council's financial position impacts on levels of Council Tax and service levels and therefore has citywide implications.

6. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Comparative information on the discharge of Local Authorities Overview & Scrutiny duties

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None