

**Subject:** Scrutiny Good Practice  
**Date of Meeting:** 17 November 2009  
**Report of:** Director of Strategy & Governance  
**Contact Officer:** Name: Tom Hook Tel: 29-1110  
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**Wards Affected:** All

### FOR GENERAL RELEASE

#### 1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 As part of the six month review of the constitution it was agreed that a good practice review of scrutiny in other local authorities be undertaken. This report sets out the findings of the review.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Governance Committee notes the scrutiny good practice review.
- 2.2 That the Governance Committee endorses the moves towards annual work plans for scrutiny panels.
- 2.3 That the Governance Committee endorses regular tripartite meetings.

#### 3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 As part of the six month review of the constitution it was agreed that a good practice review of scrutiny in other local authorities be undertaken. Appendix one of this report sets out the findings of the review.
- 3.2 The findings of the review were discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on the 20 October. A draft extract from this meeting is attached to this report at Appendix 2.
- 3.3 The Commission resolved to:
1. Support in principle the development of an annual work programme for scrutiny panels
  2. Welcome the introduction of regular meetings between Cabinet Members and Scrutiny Committee Chairs
  3. Request officers undertake further investigation on ways to improve the involvement of residents in the scrutiny process

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission has been consulted on the findings of the review. An extract from the draft minutes of their meeting of the 20 October are attached to this report at Appendix 2.

#### **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: 09/10/09*

##### 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: 07/10/09*

##### 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 and 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.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices:**

1. Comparative information on the discharge of Local Authorities Overview & Scrutiny duties
2. Draft extract from the proceedings of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 20 October 2009.

### **Documents In Members' Rooms**

None

### **Background Documents**

None

