

Resources

Scrutiny Commission

18th September 2019



Report of: Service Director, Legal & Democratic Services

Title: Resources Scrutiny Commission Annual Business Report 2019/2020.

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Recommendations:

1. To elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the 2019/2020 municipal year
2. To note the Scrutiny Commission's Terms of Reference
3. To note the membership of the Commission for the 2019/2020 municipal year
4. To confirm the 2019/2020 meeting dates for the Scrutiny Commission



1. Context and Proposal

1.1 Terms of Reference of the Commission

At its meeting on 21 May 2019 Full Council established this Scrutiny Commission with the following terms of reference:

Terms of Reference - Overview

The role of the Commission is the overview and scrutiny in respect of the implementation of policies, decisions, performance and actions relating to the Resources Directorate with functions that include Legal, Finance, HR, ICT, Policy & Strategy, Procurement, Revenue and Benefits and Commercialisation.

To ensure that overview and scrutiny directly responds to corporate and public priorities, is used to drive service improvement, provides a focus for policy development and engages members of the public, key stakeholders and partner agencies.

To action the annual work programme set by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board using the following framework:

1. Scrutiny of corporate plans and other major plan priorities within its remit with particular reference to those areas where targets are not being met or progress is slow.
2. Input to significant policy developments or service reviews.
3. Review and scrutiny of decisions made, or other action taken in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the Mayor/Executive, functions which are not the responsibility of the Mayor/Executive, and functions which are the responsibility of any other bodies the Council is authorised to scrutinise.
4. To make reports and recommendations to Full Council, the Mayor/Executive and/or any other body on matters within their remit and on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area and to monitor the response, implementation and impact of recommendations.
5. To work in collaboration with the Mayor/relevant Executive Member and receive updates from that member on key policy developments, decisions taken or to be taken and progress against corporate priorities.

6. To report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on progress against the work programme and on any recommendations it makes.
7. To develop a budget review process and ensure that budget proposals are subject to rigorous challenge.

1.2 Membership of the Commission:

- Councillor Stephen Clarke - Chair
- Councillor Mark Brain – Vice Chair
- Councillor Don Alexander
- Councillor Afzal Shah
- Councillor Mhairi Threlfall
- Councillor Hibaq Jama
- Councillor Margaret Hickman
- Councillor Graham Morris
- Councillor John Goulandris
- Councillor Clive Stevens
- Councillor Sultan Khan

1.3 2019 - 2020 Commission Meeting Dates

- 4pm, Wednesday 18th September 2019
- 3pm, Thursday 31st October 2019
- 2pm, Thursday 12th December 2019
- 4pm, Thursday 6th February 2020 (Budget Scrutiny Meeting)

Please Note: the Scrutiny Work Programme for the year can be located at Agenda Item 6.

2. Public Sector Equality Duties

1. Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following

“protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:

- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- ii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

6. Legal and Resource Implications

N/A

Appendices:

None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

- Full Council, 21 May 2019