

Council's decision on the review of overview and scrutiny arrangements included the following improvements/developments:

Core Values in the working relationship between the Executive and OS functions:

- Mature and harmonious working relationships to provide for open and constructive challenge in the style of a critical friend.
- OS should be an integral part of decision-making in order to minimise delays and frustrations.
- OS should add value to decision-making and focus on the big, important matters to the Council and communities identified in the Business Plan.
- A “two-way street” for communication to enable OS to develop a complementary work programme to that of the Executive.
- Responsible behaviour and sound practices with OS reviews based on evidence (not anecdote or political bias) fairness, respect and courtesy.
- All members and officers should work together to ensure the efficient transaction of OS business.

Policy and Budget Framework - OS to be consulted in good time prior to submission for formal adoption in accordance with the Constitution.

OS Work Programme to be relevant, balanced, proportionate, timely and outcome focused. Higher proportion of policy development work including cross-cutting themes linked to the Council's priorities in the Business Plan. Overall responsibility of the Management Committee.

Task Groups recognised as being both effective and rewarding and therefore to feature prominently in the new arrangements.

Added Value to be achieved through concentrating on less topics, more in-depth reviews particularly on matters agreed as priorities with Cabinet.

Budget Scrutiny to be dealt with through a dedicated standing task group of the Management Committee.

Legacy business - the approach to ongoing legacy business from the old arrangements to be determined by the Management Committee.

ELT Working Party to support the implementation of the revised arrangements.

Further review in 18 months of the effectiveness of the revised arrangements.