
ARTICLE 6 - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

1 Role and Function of Overview and Scrutiny

1.1 Effective scrutiny offers non-executive members the opportunity to propose policy changes, suggest improvements, commend good practice, involve communities and take a leadership role on issues of significant concern in local areas. The Council will appoint the following Policy Overview and Scrutiny bodies to discharge the functions conferred by section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000:

- Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee

Standing Policy & Scrutiny Committees

- Economy & Place Policy and Scrutiny Committee
- Children, Education & Communities Policy & Scrutiny Committee
- Health & Adult Social Care Policy & Scrutiny Committee
- Housing & Community Safety Policy & Scrutiny Committee
- Climate Change Scrutiny Committee

1.2 The common functions and individual terms of reference for each of the Policy & Scrutiny Committees are set out in Part 3C of this Constitution.

1.3 All Councillors, except Members of the Executive, may be members of a scrutiny committee. However, no Councillor may be involved in scrutinising a decision in which he or she has been directly involved.

1.4 Any efficiency reviews undertaken by a Standing Policy & Scrutiny Committee should:

- be outcome focused and reflect the Council's corporate priorities;

- challenge assumptions about the Council's operational processes;
- ensure all feasible options for the future delivery of services are explored and appraised;
- encourage the involvement of interested parties and external partners;
- make relevant recommendations to the Executive or Council

1.5 For further information on how scrutiny fits into the Council's committee structure see Part 1 of this Constitution or the 'How City of York Council Makes its Decisions' leaflet.

2 Impartiality

2.1 When considering any matter as a member of a Scrutiny body the party whip will not be exercised.

Note: the Party whip is defined as any instruction given by or on behalf of a political group to any Councillor who is a Member of that group as to how that Councillor shall speak or vote on any matter before the Council and any committee or sub-committee or the application or threat to apply any sanction by the group in respect of that Councillor should he or she speak or vote in any particular manner.