

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 27 MARCH 2012

Title:

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Robert Knowles]

[Wards Affected: All]

Summary and purpose:

Members have previously discussed rebalancing the workload on Overview and Scrutiny Committees and this report sets out a proposal for revising terms of reference, and membership.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

Overview and Scrutiny plays a role in achieving all of the Council's priorities.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

There are no equality and diversity implications.

Environment and Climate Change Implications:

There are no environment and climate change implications.

Resource/Value for Money implications:

The change can be achieved within existing budgets.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications.

Introduction

1. The two new Overview and Scrutiny Committees were set up in May 2011, and the existing terms of reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees are set out at Annexe 1. It has become apparent since then that the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a very heavy workload, and the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee a significantly lighter workload. This has meant that major changes to Housing, including the new Housing Business Plan, have been included in Community Overview and Scrutiny agenda with many other significant items.

2. One way of rebalancing this would be to transfer Housing to Corporate O&S. The new Housing funding regime has significant Corporate financial implications, and a suggested rebalancing is set out as Annexe 2 as a pilot for the 2012/13 Council year.

Membership

3. Currently the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee has two representatives from the Tenants' Panel to represent tenants' interests.
4. The proposal is that the two members of the Tenants' Panel be invited to sit on both the Overview and Scrutiny Committees because of the impact of services covered by the newly constituted Community O&S Committee on Council Tenants.
5. All members are able to attend all meetings and Procedure Rules allow them to give notice to speak on a particular item.

Conclusion

6. This report has been considered by the existing Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12 March who agreed that their observations should be forwarded to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 March. The combined observations from both Overview and Scrutiny Committees would then be forwarded to the Executive.
7. Subject to the observations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the new Committees could be appointed at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2012.

Recommendation

It is recommended to the Council that the Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees be amended to transfer housing into the remit of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Constitution be amended accordingly.

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Name: Robin Pellow

Telephone: 01483 523222

E-mail: robin.pellow@waverley.gov.uk