

Scrutiny Board Task and Finish Group Scoping Document

The process for establishing a task and finish group is:

1. The Scrutiny Board identifies a potential topic for a task and finish group
2. The Scrutiny Board Chairman and the Scrutiny Officer complete the scoping template.
3. The Council Overview Board reviews the scoping document
4. The Scrutiny Board agrees membership of the task and finish group.

Review Topic: Scrutiny in a new environment
Scrutiny Board(s): Council Overview Board
<p>Relevant background</p> <p>At its meeting in July 2016 the Council Overview considered a report on the changing financial, policy and decision making landscape of local government and how overview and scrutiny committees must be able to meet the challenges of scrutinising the key issues in this new environment. This was prompted by the challenges experienced by the Board in scrutinising the council's trading companies, the decision making process for property investment and national policy developments.</p> <p>The Board resolved that a Task Group be established with the aim of reviewing the effectiveness of the Council's existing scrutiny arrangements in the light of changes to methods of service delivery.</p>
<p>Why this is a scrutiny item</p> <p>The role and duties of Local Government are evolving at a time of significant funding changes alongside continuing public sector austerity. To meet the challenges of providing services to its residents Surrey County Council is engaged in developing a number of new solutions including partnerships with other public bodies, integration, devolution and commercial activity.</p>
<p>What question is the task group aiming to answer?</p> <p>What are the current arrangements for scrutiny of New Models of Delivery, Orbis, LATCs, Investment Advisory Board, Shareholder Board and the Local Enterprise Partnership?</p> <p>Are these arrangements suitable for effective scrutiny?</p>
<p>Aim</p> <p>Answer whether the Council Overview Board, under current conditions, is able to effectively scrutinise emerging partnerships, new models of delivery and other developments and whether the existing governance arrangements need to be revised.</p>

Objectives

What are the current arrangements?
 What are the challenges and barriers inherent in these arrangements to effective scrutiny of evolving Local Government policies?
 How can scrutiny of these policies and services be done in the future?

Scope (within / out of)**In**

New Models of Delivery, Orbis, LATCs, Investment Advisory Board, Shareholder Board, Local Enterprise Partnership.

Out

The services under the exclusive remit of the council's other Scrutiny Boards. The Police and Crime Panel and Wellbeing and Health Scrutiny Board's operate under specific regulations which will not be considered.

Outcomes for Surrey / Benefits

Which corporate priority will this review support or deliver? Which failing KPI's will this review look to address?

Resident Experience - "Residents in Surrey experience public services that are easy to use, responsive and value for money."

Proposed work plan

It is important to clearly allocate who is responsible for the work, to ensure that Members and officers can plan the resources needed to support the task group.

Timescale	Task	Responsible
October/ November	Review the partnerships, new models of delivery and other new arrangements the council has entered into and their individual governance arrangements	Task Group / Scrutiny Officer
November/ December	Identify arrangements which present cause for concern. Raise these concerns with responsible officers.	Task Group / Scrutiny Officer/ Senior Officers
January/ February	Present findings from witness sessions and formulate recommendations as necessary.	Task Group / Scrutiny Officer

Witnesses**Internal:**

David McNulty, Ann Charlton, Sheila Little, John Stebbings, Susan Smyth, Liz Lawrence, Rachel Crossley.

Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Business Services and Resident Experience.

External:

LATC Directors, Other Local Authority (including East Sussex County Council Members), LGA, Centre for Public Scrutiny.

Useful Documents

Item 08 Scrutiny in a New Environment.doc



CfPS-Devolution-Paper-v4-WEB-new.pdf

Potential barriers to success

Access to documents, external witnesses.

Officer time.

Equalities implications

N/A

Task Group Members	Zully Grant-Duff, Nick Harrison, Stephen Cooksey, David Harmer
Co-opted Members	
Spokesman for the Group	Steve Cosser
Scrutiny Officer/s	Ross Pike

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