

## **COUNCIL MEETING – 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016**

**Extract from the Minutes of the Constitution Committee meeting on  
24<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

### **21 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES - REVIEW OF STRUCTURE**

The Committee considered proposals to reduce the number of overview and scrutiny committees to better align the committees to the corporate and Cabinet structures.

The current overview and scrutiny structure comprising six committees did not align well with the new Cabinet portfolios. The result was that most portfolio holders were required to report to more than one committee. A better alignment of the overview and scrutiny structure linked to the new portfolios would provide greater clarity for the organisation as a whole, and would give each portfolio holder a single point of contact as far as overview and scrutiny was concerned.

A draft structure had been created comprising four committees. The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee would retain its overarching responsibilities for the whole of the scrutiny function. With the exception of the Health Adult Social Care and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which would meet on a monthly basis, committees would meet formally on a bi-monthly basis, six times a year as they did now.

Councillor M Simon, the Chairman of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, attended the meeting and spoke on this matter.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Simon and the scrutiny officers for their work on the restructuring of the overview and scrutiny committees.

### **RESOLVED**

That it be recommended to Council that

(1) the overview and scrutiny committee structure be reduced from six to four committees as follows:

- Corporate (12 Members) (to include the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the other three overview and scrutiny committees)
- Environment and Regeneration (12 Members)
- Children and Families (12 Members)
- Health and Adult Social Care and Communities (15 Members)

- (2) the terms of reference for each overview and scrutiny committee as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved;
- (3) with the exception of the Health and Adult Social Care and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which will meet on a monthly basis, the meetings of the overview and scrutiny committees be held on an eight weekly cycle, subject to each Chairman being given flexibility to convene additional meetings as and when required depending on workload;
- (4) regular mid-point meetings be disbanded; and
- (5) the proposed overview and scrutiny arrangements be implemented with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 and reviewed in due course.

**(Note - The Constitution Committee report has been amended at para 11.7 with regard to the statutory responsibility for the scrutiny of community safety. The amendment clarifies that the new Health and Adult Social Care and Communities Committee will fulfil the Council's statutory responsibility to scrutinise community safety).**