



Work Outline / Terms of Reference

Current Practices and Future Plans on use of information to inform work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Reporting to Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Our key question:	How can Overview and Scrutiny Committees better use information to identify critical and exceptional issues?
1. How is O&S adding value through this work?	<p>Since October 2023, the Council has been under Government Intervention. As part of this, the Council, as required, has recently approved an Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP). The key findings and recommendations from the Independent Governance Review of the Council and produced by Centre for Governance Scrutiny (CfGS), were incorporated into the IRP.</p> <p>Like all parts of the Council, Overview and Scrutiny Committees will play an important role in driving corporate improvements across the Council. In order to do this effectively though, O&S Committees will need to be focused on the right things and deliver them in the right way. This will ensure that O&S Committees will add value and not duplicate existing activity. This is essential given the scope of change required across the Council, and the pace in which it will need to be delivered.</p> <p>Initial discussions with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny identified the importance of baselining members' understanding of the Council's change and improvement plans and work towards a sustainable approach to information sharing / management which gives members confidence that they can maintain a watching brief over emerging issues.</p>
2. What needs to be done?	<p>This work will be undertaken in 2 Parts.</p> <p>Part 1 will focus on setting the scene and consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does the 'ideal' model for Scrutiny using information look like?• What is the Council's core information system?• What activity is being undertaken to redevelop this? How will members use the information available to inform the issues that will be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committees?• Where are the Council's strengths and weaknesses around information?



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What support do Members need to access and effectively use information? <p>Part 2 will be informed by the work undertaken above, and the terms of reference may be updated.</p>
<p>3. What timescale do we propose to do this in?</p>	<p>This work will be completed within 5 months. Part 1 will take place during May - June; Part 2 will take place, July - September.</p>
<p>4. What outcomes are we looking to achieve?</p>	<p>Outcome 1: Baseline Members’s understanding of the Council’s change and improvement plans, with specific regard to information proposals.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Develop a sustainable approach to information sharing/management which gives members confidence and certainty that they can maintain a “watching brief” over emerging issues</p> <p>Outcome 3: Members are supported and equipped to access and use information more effectively.</p>
<p>5. What is the best way to achieve these outcomes and what routes will we use?</p>	<p>For Part 1, the Task and Finish Group will meet at least two times in May – June in an informal setting. It will receive evidence from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birmingham City Council – Strategy, Equalities and Partnerships (SEP) directorate and specifically City Observatory; Corporate Portfolio Management Office; Corporate Performance and Public Participation. <p>At Coordinating OSC in May, the Committee will consider the terms of reference for the Task and Finish Group and receive an update on the preparatory work undertaken in May. This will inform and shape the further work in June – September.</p> <p>A final report including key findings and recommendations will be presented at the September Committee of the Corporate Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It will then be taken forward by individual Overview and Scrutiny Committees under the leadership of Overview and Scrutiny Chairs.</p>

Member / Officer Leads

Lead Member:	Chair: Councillor Sir Albert Bore
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Members of the Task and Finish Group:	Cllr. Albert Bore, Cllr. Mick Brown (named substitute Cllr. Kerry Jenkins), Cllr. Morriam Jan, member tbc
Lead Officer and support:	Richard Brooks, Strategic Director (Strategic, Equalities and Partnerships) Overview and Scrutiny: TBC