

Birmingham City Council

Coordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date 14 July 2023



Subject: Updating the Scrutiny Framework
Report of: Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services
Report author: Fiona Bottrill, Senior Overview and Scrutiny Manager, 0739584487

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the updated Scrutiny Framework

2 Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 2.1. Agrees the draft Scrutiny Framework attached as Appendix 1 for further consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader.
- 2.2 Agrees that the Scrutiny Procedure Notes are reviewed and updated as set out in Section 3.3.

3 Scrutiny Framework

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Framework was originally agreed in 2021 and has been updated to reflect the new flexible and effective approach that has been considered at all the Scrutiny Committees in June 2023.
- 3.2 The updates reflect the renewed focus on ensuring Scrutiny adds value and Committees develop a work programme that provides the flexibility to respond to issues as they arise and use the most appropriate Scrutiny methods.
- 3.3 The related Scrutiny Procedure Notes will be reviewed and updated prioritising Note 1: Overview and Scrutiny Work, Note 3: Role in Scrutinising Partners and Partnership Working, Note 5: Request for Call In, Note 10: Regional Scrutiny.

4 Any Finance Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations in this report.

5 Any Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications resulting from the recommendations in this report.

6 Any Equalities Implications

- 6.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 6.2 The protected characteristics and groups outlined in the Equality Act are: Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion and Belief; Sex, and Sexual Orientation.
- 6.3 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering: How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Birmingham; Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.
- 6.4 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments, and any recommendations, are based on evidence. This should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix: DRAFT Scrutiny Framework July 2023