



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

<p>Our key question:</p>	<p>How can Overview and Scrutiny Committees better use information to identify critical and exceptional issues?</p>
<p>1. How is O&S adding value through this work?</p>	<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>
<p>2. What needs to be done?</p>	<p>An initial paper to present:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What should be the model for Scrutiny using information in relation to performance, delivery and risk? 2. What are the sources of this information? <p>A first meeting to discuss:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. How will members use the information to inform the issues that will be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committees? 4. Where are the Council's strengths and weaknesses around the use of this information? <p>A final meeting including Ed Hammond, to discuss:</p>



	5. What support do Members need to access and effectively use this information?
3. What timescale do we propose to do this in?	This work will be completed between May – August 2024, with the two task and finish meetings taking place in June and July.
4. What outcomes are we looking to achieve?	<p>Outcome 1: Develop a sustainable approach to information sharing which gives members confidence and certainty that they can maintain a “watching brief” over emerging issues.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Members are supported and equipped to access and use information more effectively.</p>
5. What is the best way to achieve these outcomes and what routes will we use?	<p>Task and Finish Group will meet at least two times in June and July 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 Corporate Performance; City Observatory; Corporate Portfolio Management Office; and Risk Management. <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 – August.</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
Members of the Task and Finish Group:	Cllr. Albert Bore, Cllr. Morriam Jan, Cllr. Ewan Mackey & TBC (Labour)
Lead Officer and support:	Richard Brooks, Director (Strategy, Equality and Partnerships) Overview and Scrutiny: TBC