



Proposed Amendments to O&S Committee Remits

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out some proposed minor amendments to the remits of O&S Committees, to put forward to Council Business Management Committee as part of the Annual Review of the Constitution.

2 Background

- 2.1 In September 2020, the Co-ordinating O&S Committee agreed to a set of proposals for engaging Members and officers in a review of Overview and Scrutiny arrangements, to strengthen cross-party engagement in Scrutiny and ensure Scrutiny's place in the good governance of the Council. This included an agreement to consider whether any amendments to O&S Committee remits were required.
- 2.2 A cross-party group of Members (Cllr Carl Rice, Cllr Sir Albert Bore, Cllr Debbie Clancy, Cllr Roger Harmer, and Cllr John Cotton representing the Executive) met in March 2021 to consider what, if any changes, were needed. The outcome of their deliberations is set out below.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 The group agreed that no significant changes should be made this year, with a view to reconsidering the position ahead of the all-out local elections in May 2022. However, there were two proposals to clarify the existing remits:
- To amend the remit of the Resources O&S Committee to include "Council land use and property assets" (under the Leader's portfolio) to reflect that Committee's oversight of all internal resources.
 - To amend the remit of the Co-ordinating O&S Committee to include "Social Cohesion and Inclusion" (under the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety and Equalities' portfolio) to reflect the cross-cutting nature of that requirement, but also to recognise the large remit of the Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee and free up that committee to focus on the other big issues it covers.

Recommendations:

1. That the remit of the Resources O&S Committee be amended as follows:



*To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning finance (including strategic finance, budget setting and financial monitoring); revenues and benefits; treasury management; **Council land use and property assets**, human resources; contracting, commissioning and commercialisation*

2. That the remit of the Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee be amended as follows:

To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning strategic economy; skills and apprenticeships; ~~land and property~~; inward investment; land use planning; business improvement districts and the Local Enterprise Partnership.

3. That the remit of the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee be amended as follows:

*To plan and co-ordinate the work of all the Overview & Scrutiny Committees. To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning governance (including transparency, regional working and partnerships); citizens (including communications and public engagement); performance; customer services; **social cohesion**; and emergency planning.*

4. That the remit of the Housing and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee be amended as follows:

To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning housing; ~~social cohesion~~; waste management; neighbourhood management; parks and allotments localisation; bereavement services and community safety.

Report author: Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services