
REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2008

Chairman: * Councillor Stanley Sheinwald

Councillors : * Mrs Margaret Davine * Mrs Vina Mithani
* B E Gate * Anthony Seymour
* Mitzi Green * Dinesh Solanki
* Manji Kara * Yogesh Teli
* Barry Macleod-Cullinane * Mark Versallion
* Jerry Miles

Voting (Voluntary Aided) (Parent Governors)

Co-opted:

† Mrs J Rammelt
† Reverend P Reece

† Mr R Chauhan
* Mrs D Speel

* Denotes Member present

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION I - Councillor Call for Action and Local Petitions

Central government, under the auspices of its community empowerment agenda, has developed the Councillor Call for Action. As part of its drive for 'responsive services and empowered communities', the process is intended to strengthen the role of Councillors as advocates of the concerns of local people.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in considering the report of the Corporate Director of Strategy and Business Support, which outlined the progress made in Harrow in preparing for the Councillor Call for Action, agreed, inter alia, that the Committee's terms of reference and that of its Performance and Finance Sub-Committee be amended to ensure that arrangements were in place should the provisions in the legislation – The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Police and Justice Act 2006 – come into force from 1 April 2008.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Council)

That the revised terms of reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Performance and Finance Sub-Committee, attached as an appendix to these minutes, be approved.

(See also Minute 275)

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – Terms of Reference

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the following power and duties:

1. To oversee a more targeted and proportionate work programme that can help secured service improvement through in depth investigation of poor performance and the development of an effective strategy/policy framework for the council and partners;
2. To have general oversight of the council's scrutiny function;
3. To support the executive's policy development function and the long-term strategic direction of the borough;
4. To anticipate policy changes and determine their potential impact on residents;
5. To consider the council and partners strategic approach to service delivery;
6. To undertake detailed investigation of service/financial performance in order to recommend policy changes and to commission light touch investigations by the Performance and Finance sub committee;
7. To consider items included in the Forward Plan as appropriate;
8. To consider such urgent items as are appropriate – ~~Community Calls for Action~~, area scrutiny.
9. **To consider Councillor Call for Action.**

PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE – Terms of Reference

The Performance and Finance Sub-Committee has the following power and duties:

1. To be the key driver of the scrutiny function's work programme and the body responsible for monitoring the performance of the council and partners in relation to their stated priorities;
2. To consider/monitor, on an *exception* basis, the financial and service performance of the organisation;
3. To consider/monitor the performance of the Local Area Agreement;
4. To undertake specific investigation of identified 'hot spots' through Q&A, reports or challenge panels – subject to endorsement by Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
5. To refer 'hot spots' to Overview & Scrutiny for more detailed investigation where necessary;
6. To consider such urgent items as are appropriate – ad hoc, ~~Community Calls for Action~~, area scrutiny.
7. **To consider Councillor Call for Action.**