

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	26 th January 2009
Subject:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference
Responsible Officer:	Tom Whiting, Assistant Chief Executive
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Draft Revised Terms of Reference

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the proposed revised terms of reference for the Overview and Scrutiny committee.

Recommendations:

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to:

- I. consider and agree the amendments to the existing terms of reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
- II. recommend the revised terms of reference to Council.

Section 2 – Report

When the scrutiny function of the council was reconfigured in July 2007, the terms of reference were amended to reflect some of the changes proposed. Since this time there have been further legislative changes which are now reflected in these revised terms of reference.

Implications of the Recommendation

Resources, costs and risks

There are no resource implications associated with the proposals in this report.

Staffing/workforce

There are no staffing or workforce implications associated with the proposals in this report.

Equalities impact

There are no equalities implications associated with the proposals in this report.

Community safety

There are no community safety implications associated with the proposals in this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with the proposals in this report.

Performance Issues

There are no performance issues associated with the proposals in this report.

Risk Implications

There are no risks associated with the proposals in this report.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Sheela Thakrar



on behalf of the
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 16th January 2009

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Lynne Margetts, Service Manager Scrutiny, 020 8420 9387

Background Papers:

None

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	NO
2.	Corporate Priorities	NO

APPENDIX ONE: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

1. To oversee a targeted and proportionate work programme that can help secure 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, using, where necessary, the power of overview and scrutiny committees to receive information from partner agencies and to require partner authorities to respond to reports and recommendations from the Committee, as set out under Part Five of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007;
6. To undertake detailed investigation of service/financial performance in order to recommend policy changes to the Executive and to commission light touch investigations by the Performance and Finance sub committee;
7. To have regard, in carrying out its functions, to the requirement to involve local representatives, as set out in Part Seven of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007;
8. To report scrutiny findings and recommendations to the Executive as appropriate
9. To consider items included in the Forward Plan as appropriate;
10. To consider Councillor Call for Action in terms of
 - a. Local Government Matters (Section 119, Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007)
 - b. Local Crime & Disorder Matters (Section 19, Police & Justice Act 2006)
11. To discharge the functions conferred by Section 21(f) of the Local Government Act 2000 of reviewing and scrutinising, in accordance with regulations under Section 7 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001, matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in Harrow.
12. To scrutinise matters relating to health and public health and to hear the views of local residents, with a view to improving health services, reducing health inequalities and improving the health of local residents.
13. To respond to consultations from local health trusts, Department of Health and any organisation which provides health services outside the local authority's area to inhabitants within it.