

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	16 th March 2009
Subject:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference
Responsible Officer:	Tom Whiting, Assistant Chief Executive
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report details the changes to the Overview and Scrutiny committee's terms of reference. Councillors are requested to:

1. Agree the revised terms of reference

Section 2 – Report

Current situation

This report details the changes to the Overview and Scrutiny committee terms of reference. The proposed changes have been subject to consultation with member of the Overview and Scrutiny committee and comments received during this consultation process have been incorporated into the revised terms of reference.

Why a change is needed

The changes reflect a number of changes in the powers of the Overview and Scrutiny committee

Main options

Not appropriate to this report

Other options considered

Not appropriate to this report

Recommendation:

Councillors are requested to agree the revised terms of reference

Considerations**Resources, costs and risks**

There are no resource or risks associated with this report

Staffing/workforce

There are no workforce considerations associated with this report

Equalities impact

There are no equalities impacts associated with this report

Community safety (s17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998)

There are no community safety considerations associated with this report.

Financial Implications

There are no costs associated with this report.

Legal Implications

The amendments to the Terms of Reference largely reflect changes arising from the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act. In addition, a paragraph relating to health scrutiny has been removed, as its provisions are now covered by paragraph 11 and the new paragraph 7 of the Terms of Reference.

Performance Issues

Not applicable

Risk Management Implications

Not applicable

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Not applicable

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Lynne Margetts, Service Manager Scrutiny, 020 8420 9387

Background Papers: There are no background papers

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	YES
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 an agreed 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 offer challenge and critical support to 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 and to recommend changes where these are appropriate;
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 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 within 8 weeks of being published or to its next meeting, whichever is the sooner, in accordance with the council's constitution
9. To consider items included in the Forward Plan;
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 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.