

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	16 <sup>th</sup> 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.