



SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP GROUP – 29TH MAY 2014

SUBJECT: ROLE OF SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP GROUP

REPORT BY: SCRUTINY RESEARCH OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the Scrutiny Leadership Group (SLG) of their role and terms of reference.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 This report outlines the purpose, membership and terms of reference of the scrutiny leadership group.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 The operation of scrutiny is required by the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent Assembly legislation.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 The Scrutiny Improvement Action Plan was presented to Council on the 8th October 2013. The report recommended setting up the Scrutiny Leadership Group and outlined its terms of reference. Council endorsed all of the recommendations contained in the action plan.

4.2 The purpose of Scrutiny Leadership Group oversees the Council's scrutiny function by; providing a strategic overview for scrutiny, discussing matters with CMT and Cabinet (as necessary), suggesting improvements to further develop the effectiveness of scrutiny and recommend training requirements.

4.3 The membership of the SLG will be made up of all Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs plus the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Audit and Democratic Services committees.

4.4 The Chair of Scrutiny Leadership Group will be the Chair of Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

4.5 The terms of reference of the SLG as agreed by full Council on 8th October 2013 is as follows:-

- Oversee and co-ordinate the work of Scrutiny Committees through forward work programmes
- Ensure effective liaison across the work of the Committees
- Provide strategic leadership of the Scrutiny function
- Consider involvement in regional Scrutiny arrangements

- Encourage public engagement with Scrutiny and consider requests for scrutiny involvement
- Consider Councillor Calls for Action
- Monitor effectiveness of Scrutiny Committee pre-meeting
- Oversee specific scrutiny training requirements
- Monitor Scrutiny Improvement Action Plan

4.6 The SLG will have an important role in promoting the scrutiny function and Scrutiny Chairs are expected to report on the work of their respective committees and in particular identify areas for improvement or good practice. The SLG will also monitor any task and finish groups and consider the impact of any recommendations.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report is for information purposes, so the Council's EqIA process does not need to be applied.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications not contained in the report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personnel implications not contained in the report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 There are no consultation responses not contained in the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That SLG note its role and terms of reference.

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

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