

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the proposed annual report of the Committee's work in 2009/10. The report will form part of a single overarching report on the work of the Council's overview and scrutiny function.
- 1.2 The report goes mainly to the Council's priority of delivering efficient and responsive services, relevant aspects of which are
- (a) Available resources are used efficiently and effectively to achieve organisational objectives
  - (b) Services are accessible to and affordable for all our community
  - (c) We communicate and engage with people to understand what they need from the Council
  - (d) We have the right partnerships that can deliver real, tangible benefits for our community that could not be achieved by working in isolation

**2 Executive Summary**

The report summarises the work of the Committee in 2009/10 and relates that work to the Council's overarching PRIDE priorities.

**3 Appendices**

Appendix 1: The proposed annual report

**4 Proposed Action:**

- 3.1 The Committee is invited to discuss the proposed annual report for 2009/10 and RESOLVE its publication.**

**5 Background**

- 5.1 This Committee is one of the Council's two overview and scrutiny committees. The other is the Performance and Scrutiny Committee (formerly called the Audit and Performance Committee).
- 5.2 Overview and scrutiny functions were formally created by the Local Government Act 2000, as part of wider changes to the way councils made decisions.
- 5.3 The basic idea of overview and scrutiny is a simple one. Elected Councillors make inquiries, on behalf of the people of the Borough, to:
- (a) Hold the Council's policy committees to account in public
  - (b) Assist the Council in policy development and review; and
  - (c) Examine matters of wider local interest

- 5.4 The remit of this Committee covers the second and third of these aspects of overview and scrutiny, and under the Council's Constitution its particular role is:
- (a) To undertake reviews and make recommendations on services or activities carried out by external organisations which affect the Borough of Wellingborough or its inhabitants
  - (b) To monitor the Council's external relations with: Other public sector/quasi public sector bodies e.g. Police, PCT, Strategic Health Authority, Voluntary sector e.g. CVS
    - o Business sector e.g. Wellingborough Chamber of Commerce
    - o Other tiers of local government – Northamptonshire County Council and Parish Councils within the Borough Regional and sub-regional bodies e.g. East Midlands Regional Assembly, EMDA, GOEM, East Midlands LGA, Sub-Regional Strategic Partnership, and NNDC
  - (c) The Council's role in facilitating, developing and consolidating partnerships both statutory and non-statutory including:
    - o Community Safety and Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership
    - o Local Strategic Partnership
    - o Wellingborough Town Centre Partnership
  - (d) Local Area Agreements and Public Service Agreements
  - (e) Communication and consultation with external agencies and the public
  - (f) Overview and Scrutiny of outside bodies on which the Council has representation including examination of the "added value" of the Council's participation and the opportunity for appointed representatives to "feedback" to the Council on the activities of the body concerned
  - (g) Matters relating to the community leadership role and empowering communities

5.5 The Council's local code of governance requires the publication of an annual report of the activities of the Committee.

5.6 The final version of the annual report will be published on the Council's website. Hard copies of the document will be placed in the Members' Room and in Council receptions.

## **6 Discussion**

6.1 The annual report summarises the overview and scrutiny work carried out by the Committee in the 2009/10. It identifies the wide range and variety of organisations and bodies scrutinised by the Committee and the proposed actions flowing from that scrutiny.

6.2 The annual report also describes the follow-up to the review work initiated by the Committee in relation to the relatively low levels of educational achievement in the Borough.

6.3 It is proposed that this report forms part of an overarching report on the work of the Council's overview and scrutiny function

## 7 Legal Powers

7.1 The Local Authorities (Alternative Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2001 require local authorities who adopt the alternative arrangements model of governance to appoint one or more overview and scrutiny committees to discharge specified functions.

## 8 Financial and Value For Money Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications flowing from this report, other than printing costs.

8.2 Effective overview and scrutiny is one of the means through which the Council can secure more efficient and effective delivery of services by other public service providers in the Borough.

## 9 Risk Analysis

This table needs to be completed for any report setting out a proposed course of action that entails risks at the outset of the project or if the risks change along the way.

Nature of risk	Consequences if realised	Likelihood of occurrence	Control measures
Non-publication of report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reputation damage</li> </ul>	High	Publish report
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to adhere to local code of governance thereby attracting adverse audit comment</li> </ul>	High	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to inform the Community of the work of the Committee</li> </ul>	High	

## 10 Implications for Resources

9.1 Effective overview and scrutiny is one of the means by which the Council improves its use of resources

## 11 Implications for Stronger and Safer Communities

10.1 This refers to health improvement, community cohesion, and community safety matters under the local area agreement.

## 12 Implications for Equalities

11.1 There are no such implications flowing directly from a decision to provide a report on the activities of the Committee.

**13 Author and Contact Officer**

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**14 Consultees**

None

**Background Papers**

None