

ITEM 9 Overview and Scrutiny Handbook

Report of the Chairman

Recommended:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Handbook be approved.

SUMMARY:

- To review and agree the revised Overview and Scrutiny Handbook.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 On 21 April 2010 the Committee considered and agreed to adopt the Overview and Scrutiny Handbook. This is in accordance with recommended good practice advice by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, that all Overview and Scrutiny Committees should have a Scrutiny Handbook to which members and officers can refer for guidance.

2 Background

- 2.1 In July 2016 members of the Committee held an Away Day in the Andover Guildhall where the day focused on reviewing current practices and looking at how OSCOM could operate in the future.
- 2.2 The Away Day was facilitated by Laura Murphy from the Centre for Public Scrutiny and following a very productive session an action plan was drawn up to shape and develop the Overview and Scrutiny function.
- 2.3 From the action plan six groups were identified to research and explore options to take Overview and Scrutiny forward.
- New form (covering how items are added to the work programme and the following processes) – lead by the Chairman, Councillor Lynn.
 - Call In – lead by Councillor C Dowden.
 - Panels Scoping – lead by Councillor Baverstock.
 - Training – lead by Councillor Finlay
 - Public Participation – lead by Councillor Drew
 - Job description for Overview and Scrutiny members – lead by Councillor Jeffrey.
- 2.4 The areas covered by the ‘new form’ ‘panels scoping’ and ‘job description’ have been incorporated into the revised Overview and Scrutiny handbook.
- 2.5 Areas covered by call in, training and public participation will be considered separately.

3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 3.1 The development of Overview and Scrutiny will help to underpin the Council's priority to contribute to and be part of a strong community by encouraging the public to engage with the Council to help shape their communities.

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 Any changes to the Constitution will require a Council decision.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The Handbook was last reviewed and updated in 2013 and requires further amendment to bring it up to date. Changes will also need to be made to reflect the proposed changes by Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as highlighted in this report.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

Confidentiality

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.

No of Annexes:	1		
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