

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Scrutiny Terms of Reference and Priorities 2015/16</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Resources</b>

## **5. Summary**

In light of the changes to the executive decision making arrangements of the Council, following the appointment of Commissioners to take all decisions relating to executive functions and licensing, the report presents the outcome of a review of the terms of reference for the Scrutiny function within the constitution and sets the priorities for Scrutiny for 2015/16.

## **6. Recommendation**

**That Council:**

- Approves the changes to the constitution – Appendix 2 Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Appendix A of this report)
- Approves the proposed work priorities and ways of working for Scrutiny for 2015/16 (Appendix B of this report)

## **7. Proposals and Details**

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced the nature of the government's intervention into Rotherham MBC in a statement to the House of Commons on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015. As a result the Scrutiny role of Elected Members, as set out in the Council's constitution was suspended pending further deliberations of the five appointed Commissioners. Since their appointment in March 2015, the Commissioners have engaged with Elected Members to determine a realistic and focused Scrutiny programme for 2015/16, clearly identifying the areas they would like Members to prioritise. As a result of these discussions the proposed areas were as follows:

- Scrutiny of plans and services designed to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation
- Scrutiny of the Health and Social Care integration agenda
- Scrutiny of the Council's budget
- Task and finish scrutiny of litter and waste (to include fly-tipping)

This was discussed and agreed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015. This will provide a focused approach to the work programme for Scrutiny that can effectively be delivered via the following existing Scrutiny structures:

OSMB – Budget plus statutory work  
Improving Places – Task and finish work on litter/waste  
Improving Lives – Scrutiny of CSE  
Health – Scrutiny of Health/Social Care integration

In light of this agreement the proposed relevant changes to the constitution, which includes the terms of reference for Overview and Scrutiny and its Select Commissions, are included in this report for approval, Appendix A. The agreed work programme has been summarised in Appendix B, which also summarises the proposed new approaches to be adopted by OSMB and its Select Commissions. In summary the changes proposed in both documents include:

- Discontinuation of the Self Regulation Select Commission and the elements of its terms of reference relating to budget and performance transferred into the terms of reference for Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
- The inclusion of scrutiny of plans to tackle CSE in the terms of reference for the Improving Lives Select Commission
- The inclusion of scrutiny of health and social care integration in the terms of reference for the Health Select Commission
- The removal of specified meeting frequencies for the Select Commissions, to enable them to accommodate a mixture of approaches. Improving Lives and Health Select Commissions will continue as standing panels to consider their work priorities, whereas Improving Places will adopt a focused task and finish group to address, initially the waste and littering priority. The individual task and finish group(s) will require detailed scoping in addition to the terms of reference contained within this report.

## **8. Finance**

No direct financial implications.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

The Scrutiny Function of the Council is a key tool for engaging members and officers of the Council and the general public in the delivery of public services and the workings of local democracy and as such helps to ensure added value to the work of the Council. Clear parameters for this work ensure that it is focused and more likely to deliver clear outcomes.

#### **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The Scrutiny work programme, helps to achieve corporate priorities by addressing key policy and performance agendas and outcomes focus on added value to the work of the Council.

#### **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015

**Contact Name:**

Deborah Fellowes, Scrutiny Manager ext 22769

[deborah.fellowes@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.fellowes@rotherham.gov.uk)