

The Improving Lives Select Commission Terms of Reference- Revised 2025

All Scrutiny Commissions Functions-

1. To carry out the annual overview and scrutiny work programme as agreed for each select commission with OSMB
2. To submit reports to OSMB with recommendations on matters that affect the borough or the inhabitants of the borough.
3. Within their terms of reference, each scrutiny commission may
 - a. scrutinise and review the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
 - b. question Cabinet Members and Chief Officers about their decisions and performance, in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
 - c. make recommendations to the Cabinet and appropriate Committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
 - d. review and scrutinise the performance of other partners and public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Committee and local people about their activities;
 - e. conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
 - f. question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent); and in liaison with OSMB, appoint non-voting co-optees to the Scrutiny Commissions and/or Task and Finish Groups.

Improving Lives Scrutiny Commission Specific Functions-

1. The Improving Lives Scrutiny Commission is tasked with carrying out in-depth overview and scrutiny as directed by the OSMB, including scrutinising-
 - a. Children's Safeguarding (including neglect, abuse, CSE and CCE) and prevention and early intervention strategies;
 - b. Family intervention, fostering, adoption and looked after children including out of borough placements;
 - c. Transitional arrangements from childhood to adulthood for young people with complex needs (with Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission);
 - d. Educational outcomes & 14-19 Strategy including early years, schools, SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) schools, and pupil referral units;
 - e. Home to School Transport;

- f. Early Help services including the Troubled Families agenda and youth provision;
 - g. Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) (with Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission as appropriate);
 - h. Domestic Abuse Strategy and response;
 - i. Expanding opportunities for skills and learning for young people.
2. For scrutiny of education issues, the appointment of statutory co-optees. Namely one representative of the Church of England Diocese (if the Council maintains one or more Church of England schools), Roman Catholic Diocese (if the Council maintains one or more Roman Catholic schools) and between 2 and 5 parent governor representatives. These members have voting rights in relation to education matters.