

**RESPONSE OF CABINET TO POLICY AND COORDINATION REVIEW
COMMITTEE - REVIEW OF SCRUTINY**

Addendum Report of the Chief Executive and City Solicitor

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To propose amendments to the terms of reference of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

2. Description of Decision

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to consider the amended terms of reference set out at Appendix A, increasing to seven the number of Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and to propose necessary consequential changes to the Constitution to be considered by Council.

3. Introduction/Background

- 3.1 Cabinet has made its response to the proposals received from the Council's Policy and Coordination Committee for review of Scrutiny arrangements. Further consideration has been given to strengthening proposed arrangements and revised proposals for review of the allocation of work to the Committees have been drawn up at the request of Cabinet to ensure that necessary attention can be afforded to the key priorities for the Council and the city.

4. Current Position

- 4.1 Further detailed consideration has been given to the allocation of business under renewed Scrutiny arrangements. Terms of reference for the proposed Committee structure have been refined, and these include proposals for the establishment of an additional Committee.

5. Reasons for the Decision

- 5.1 Each of the Committees has a broad remit and the current proposal seeks to ensure that adequate Member time can be devoted to key issues, the sustainability of planned activity, and to respond to emerging issues at the time the Committee's involvement can add most value.
- 5.3 The Committees' approach must now be broadened to address the wider city issues that need to be addressed to meet the commitments the Council and its partners have made to achieving improvement. This strengthened approach will assist in achieving improved outcomes for

the city, its residents, visitors and employees, and support the Council and city in responding to the requirements of Comprehensive Area Assessment.

- 5.2 In order to ensure that each of the Committees is able to afford necessary attention to the areas within their remit, and that the Management Scrutiny Committee's role of overview of corporate policies, performance and budget can be carried out without detriment to its further role in overseeing and coordinating scrutiny business, it is proposed that an additional Overview and Scrutiny Committee is established to oversee implementation of the cross cutting priorities, and those major projects that are key to achieving the city's priorities with particular regard to the sustainability of these initiatives into the future.

6. Alternative Options

- 6.1 That the Council retains the existing six Committee structure, and that oversight of cross-cutting priorities and key major projects are absorbed within their workloads. This would require those committees' workloads to absorb all the work of overview of the city's strategic and cross-cutting priorities and provides no additional capacity to ensure the Committees are able to respond in a timely way to key emerging issues

7. Relevant Considerations

- 7.1 The Council has recognised the importance of strengthening the structure, working practices and relationships that underpin its Overview and Scrutiny arrangements.