

8. Role of the Scrutiny Committee

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8.1 Areas of work of the Scrutiny Committee

Council has appointed one Scrutiny Committee

8.2 What powers does the Scrutiny Committee have?

The Scrutiny Committee can:

- Send reports and recommendations to the Cabinet or Council on anything the Council is responsible for or anything that affects the city or its people
- Consider decisions that have been called in and ask for them to be looked at again (Part 17.1)
- Monitor the Forward Plan and call for reports on items that are coming up
- Require senior officers (Part 9.1), and Cabinet members to attend meetings and answer questions (Part 13)
- Hold public inquiries
- Invite people to meetings and gather evidence from them
- Establish standing and ad hoc panels and review groups to do work and make recommendations. The membership of panels and review groups will be set by the Scrutiny Committee and can be drawn from all non-executive members but the chair will be accountable to the Scrutiny Committee.

8.3 Roles of the Scrutiny Committee

- (a) Developing and reviewing policy

The Scrutiny Committee can:

- Help Council and the Cabinet to develop policy by studying issues in detail
- Carry out research and consultation on policy
- Consider and introduce schemes to involve the public in developing policy
- Work with national, regional and local organisations to promote the interest of local people.

- (b) Holding the executive to account

The Scrutiny Committee can:

- Review the performance and decisions of the Cabinet, and Council officers (but not decisions on individual planning or licensing applications)

- Review the Council's progress in achieving its policy aims and performance targets
- Review the performance of individual services
- Review executive decisions in respect of any companies wholly or partly owned by the Council and hold the shareholder to account for the performance of those companies.
- Ask Cabinet members, and senior officers (Part 9.1) questions about their decisions and performance – these may be questions about general performance or about particular decisions and projects.

(c) Managing the budgets for scrutiny

The Scrutiny Committee is responsible for any budgets it is given.

(d) Holding others to account

The Scrutiny Committee can hold other public service providers to account.