

TITLE OF REPORT: Role and Remit

REPORT OF: Jane Robinson, Chief Executive
Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services
and Governance

Summary

The report sets out the remit and terms of reference of the Committee as previously agreed by the Cabinet and the Council.

Background

1. Article 6 of the Council's Constitution sets out the aims and objectives of the scrutiny function in Gateshead Council. In particular it should be an integral part of the Council's framework and a constructive process which works alongside other parts of the Council's structure, contributing towards policy development. Importantly it will enhance rather than duplicate activity and it will look to broader issues affecting local people rather than just internal Council issues.

Remit/ Terms of Reference

2. Within the above principles, all Overview and Scrutiny Committees will
 - Review decisions, holding decision makers to account
 - Call - in executive decisions in accordance with the procedure set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Committee rules
 - Contribute to the policy making process through:-
 - Policy reviews agreed as part of the service planning cycle
 - Advice given to the Cabinet as part of the Council's performance management system
 - Scrutinising and developing the Council's Improvement Programme
 - Examining Issues in the Schedule of Decisions
 - Ensure other agencies, public and private, play their part in achieving a better quality of life for Gateshead residents.
3. This Committee has specific responsibility for performing the overview and scrutiny role in relation to:-
 - economic development and vitality;
 - lifelong learning including education, training and learning outside the school environment; people into work;

- culture, leisure, the arts, sports and recreation;
- matters relating to housing, including management of the Council's housing stock and relationships with the Gateshead Housing Company;
- the physical development and regeneration of the area;
- transport planning and the promotion of public transport;
- the quality of the local environment, including refuse collection, street cleaning, ground maintenance, highway maintenance and the cleaning of Council buildings; and
- the protection of the environment, including Climate Change.

Recommendation

4. The Committee is asked to note its remit and terms of reference.