

SCHEDULE 6

Terms of Reference of Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group

1. Membership.

1.1 The Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group shall comprise of Education Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs or equivalent of each of the 3 Councils.

1.2 Each member may appoint a deputy who may attend meetings of the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group as a substitute for the appointed member but such deputy shall only be entitled to attend meetings of the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group in the absence of the appointed member.

1.3 The membership may not include Cabinet/Executive Members.

2. Purpose

2.1 The purpose of the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group shall be:

2.1.1 Performing the overview and scrutiny function for the PARTNERIAETH on behalf of the 3 Councils;

2.1.2 To develop a forward work programme reflecting the functions under clause 2.1.1 above;

2.1.3 To seek reassurance and consider if the PARTNERIAETH is operating according to the Joint Committee Agreement, its Business Plan, timetable and / or is being managed effectively. In particular to review and scrutinise the Joint Committee's financial affairs; review and assess the Joint Committee's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements and review and assess the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which resources have been used.

2.1.4 To make any reports and recommendations to the Councils, whether to their executive Boards or full Council as appropriate, in respect of any function which has been delegated to the Joint Committee pursuant to the Joint Committee Agreement.

2.2 For the avoidance of doubt scrutiny of individual Council's statutory responsibilities as set out in Schedule 1 shall be a matter for the relevant Council's Scrutiny Committee.

3. Chair

3.1 The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group shall be elected by the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group for a term to be determined by the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group.

3.2 The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group shall not be from the same Council as the Chair of the Joint Committee.

4. Voting

4.1 Each member of the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group shall have one vote. Decisions of the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group shall be made by simple majority vote.

4.2 In the event of equality of votes the Chair of the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group shall have a casting vote.

5. Conflicts of Interest

5.1 Members of the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group must declare any interest either before or during the meetings of the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group (and withdraw from that meeting if necessary) in accordance with their Council's Code of Conduct or as required by law.

6. Proceedings of Meetings

6.1 The rules of procedure and access to information rules of the Lead Council with responsibility for the administration of the scrutiny function shall apply to meetings of the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group.

6.2 Members of the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group shall be subject to the Codes of Conduct for Members of their Councils.

6.3 Members shall be entitled to Joint Committee papers in accordance with the procedure rules of the Lead Council with responsibility for the administration of the scrutiny function.

7. Quorum

7.1 The quorum for meetings shall be no less than 3 members, which must include at least 1 member from each of the 3 Councils.

7.2 Officers of the Councils or from outside bodies may be invited to attend Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group meetings to present reports, participate in scrutiny discussions or to observe proceedings but these officers will not form part of the quorum nor will they be entitled to vote.

7.3 The PARTNERIAETH Lead Officer and the Lead Director for Education shall attend meetings of the Joint Scrutiny Councillors Group.

7.4 The Directors of Education of each of the Council shall attend together at least once per annum.

7.5 The Chair of Joint Committee shall attend at least once per annum.

8. Frequency

8.1 The Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group shall meet at a frequency to be determined by the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group. Additional meetings may be convened by the Chair on at least 7 clear days' notice.

9. Allowances

9.1 No allowances shall be paid.

10. Servicing

10.1 The Lead Council with responsibility for administration of the joint scrutiny functions shall support the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group.

11. Sub-Groups

11.1 The Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group by agreement may create task and finish groups.

12. Review

12.1 The terms of reference of the Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group shall be reviewed annually.