

## **Council Constitution, Part 5.1 - Codes and Protocols: Councillors & Officers Attending and Participating in Scrutiny Protocol**

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### **1 Councillors & Officers Attending and Participating in Scrutiny Protocol**

- 1 The purpose of Overview & Scrutiny is to review Council policy and service delivery while taking into account the performance of the authority. In doing so, it is expected that overview & scrutiny members will make constructive recommendations to Council that are based on factual findings.
- 2 Scrutiny is not about fostering a blame culture or assigning unfair criticism. To be effective, it must have the ability to work in an environment that supports the principles of service improvement. To assist this approach, it is considered necessary that Overview & Scrutiny members should:
  - a) undertake their roles with due diligence and satisfy themselves that all pertinent issues are covered;
  - b) be able to consider themselves unfettered by party political discipline;
  - c) use the powers of scrutiny properly and behave in a manner that reflects the trust placed in them by electors;
  - d) not permit personal agendas or differences in political complexion to obscure an effective overview & scrutiny process;
  - e) refrain from public and personal criticism of other members or officers.
- 3 Cabinet Members and Officers should:
  - a) Ensure their availability to attend Overview & Scrutiny Boards as requested;
  - b) Co-operate with Overview & Scrutiny Boards in arriving at conclusions to their investigations;
  - c) Provide all necessary information that will assist in the effectiveness of the overview & scrutiny process.