

10 March, 2020

Scrutiny-Cabinet Protocol

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: All

1. Aim

The Scrutiny Overview Committee (the Committee) has been working on implementing the government guidance on Overview and Scrutiny. The guidance recognises that the prevailing organisational culture, behaviours and attitudes of an authority will largely determine whether its scrutiny function succeeds or fails. After considering the guidance, the Committee identified a Scrutiny-Cabinet Protocol as one method of embedding a positive culture between the Executive and the Overview and Scrutiny function. As such, a protocol has been developed in consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Members and the Executive. The draft protocol is attached at Appendix 1 to this report for Members to consider and provide feedback. If agreeable it is suggested that the draft Protocol is forwarded to Council for inclusion as a Protocol in the Constitution.

2. Recommendations

That, subject to any comments Members may wish to make, the draft Scrutiny-Cabinet Protocol be referred to Council for inclusion as a Protocol in the Constitution.

3. Report detail – know

At its meeting on 25 November 2019 the Committee resolved to ask the Chair and Vice-Chair to work with the Leader and Deputy Leader to draft a protocol between Scrutiny and Cabinet. Two meetings have taken place during which time many areas of common interest were discussed and agreed. The draft is included at Appendix 1.

The Group drafting the protocol wished to engage all Members on this important area. To this end the draft protocol was shared with all Members of the Council for feedback. The feedback received suggested that consideration should be given to requiring working groups to reflect political proportionality.

4. Financial information

There is no financial information for this report.

5. Reducing Inequalities

This report does not directly reduce inequalities in the borough.

6. Decide

If the Committee are supportive of the draft protocol then it is suggested that it is referred to Council for inclusion in the Constitution as a new Protocol. Alternatively the Committee could request further development work to be undertaken.

7. Respond

If the Committee refer the Protocol to Council it will be taken to the meeting on 20 April 2020.

8. Review

Subject to the Protocol being agreed it is suggested that its effectiveness is reviewed by the Committee with Cabinet Members in 12 months' time.

Background papers

None.

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