

Constitution and Associated Documents – Proposed Changes

	Section and Reference	Existing Text	Proposed amendment including revised text if appropriate
	Part 3.5 – Terms of Reference of Council and Committees (Scrutiny Committees)	Please see attached – Appendix A	Please see attached – Appendix B
		<p>Reason for proposed change:</p> <p>Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development (OS&PD) Committee met on 21st March 2023 and agreed that changes to the number and structure of Scrutiny Committees would be proposed to Constitution Task Group, in anticipation of recommending these changes to Annual Council in May 2023. This followed an external review of the Council’s Scrutiny functions undertaken by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny during 2022.</p> <p>That external review was reported in full to OS&PD and the review recommended (amongst other matters) that the number of Scrutiny committees should be reduced and restructured to make these more focused, efficient and better positioned to discharge the Scrutiny role. OS&PD has proposed to reduce the number of committees from 8 to 6; replace Overview, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee with an Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee (which would subsume the role of the current Finance Sub-committee); and align the remaining 5 sub-committees with the themes in the Council Plan (Caring, Thriving, Family Friendly, Green and Secure).</p> <p>Appendix B attached reflects these proposals and realigns the existing Terms of Reference for the current Scrutiny Committees to the proposed new structure of Scrutiny Committees. None of the existing Terms of Reference have been omitted / deleted – all are retained but have been</p>	

aligned against the proposed new Committees / Committee structure.

Implications of proposed change:

- **Finance and other resource implications:**

As the number of committees is proposed to reduce, there will be an anticipated reduction in direct costs as fewer Scrutiny Chairs will be needed (with a corresponding reduction in the number of allowances paid); and a reduction in indirect / opportunity costs as fewer committees will need to be serviced each year.

- **Legal implications:**

None. The proposed changes will not impact the responsibilities for Scrutiny set out in the Local Government Act 2000.

- **Consultation/Engagement undertaken (internal and external):**

The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny engaged widely with the Elected Mayor and elected members (Overview & Scrutiny Committee Chairs; other elected members serving on Scrutiny committees; Political Group Leaders; elected members from all political groups (non-members of Scrutiny); Chairs of other Committees); co-opted members of Scrutiny; and officers (the Democratic Services Team, Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team). The report was published as part of the OS&PD agenda on 21 March 2023 and discussed in detail in that meeting of OS&PD.

- **Human Rights implications:**

None

- **Equalities and Diversity implications:**

Scrutiny Terms of Reference refers to conducting in-depth investigations and seeking to involve communities. When conducting scrutiny reviews and in-depth investigations, scrutiny should undertake equality impact assessments prior to undertaking their investigations, which would capture affected and diverse communities in North Tyneside.

- **Risk Management implications:**

None

- **Crime and Disorder implications:**

	<p>None</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environment and Sustainability implications: No direct implications. The functions of the current Environment Scrutiny Sub-Committee are proposed to be fulfilled by the new Green Scrutiny Sub-Committee.
	<p>Proposed by: Allison Mitchell, Head of Governance Service Area: Governance Contact Tel. No: 5720</p>
	<p>Head of Service sign-off: (please insert a cross in the box)</p> <div><div>X</div></div>