

Scrutiny Committee report



Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

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To: Scrutiny Committee

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Nomination to Scrutiny Task and Finish Group

Recommendation(s)

(a) That Vale of White Horse District Council's Scrutiny Committee nominates two members to form part of a task and finish group to be established by the Joint Scrutiny Committee with South Oxfordshire District Council.

Implications (further detail within the report)	Financial	Legal	Climate and Ecological	Equality and diversity
	No	No	No	No
Signing off officer				

Purpose of Report

1. The Joint Scrutiny Committee (JSC) and separate individual council Scrutiny Committees for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils (OSC's) aim to play a vital role in the Councils' decision-making and policy development processes. The committees strive to ensure that public accountability is exercised at every level and that key decisions relating to place, communities, resources and finance are thoroughly reviewed.
2. In April 2024 a piece of work was completed by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) which provided a detailed analysis of the scrutiny function for both

councils, with the intention of offering suggestions to members on how to develop scrutiny processes.

3. The work being taken forward to respond and generate an action plan based upon the CfGS report will be through a JSC task and finish group. To ensure broad consideration of those issues, members from each of the OSC's would be required to form part of that Task and Finish Group.

Strategic Objectives

4. The JSC and the OSC's are responsible for holding the Cabinets and other committees to account, as well as helping to develop new policies and stances in response to such things as the CfGS report. The scrutiny committees scrutinise decisions, review and advise on existing policies and public services, monitor the councils' performance and carry out policy development functions. The aim of the scrutiny committees is to secure continuous positive improvement in the way the Councils' functions are exercised; taking economy, efficiency and effectiveness all into account. However, it has been recognised by the councils that overview and scrutiny at both councils needs to be more efficient and effective to reflect the important role that it can and should play in the democratic system.

Background

5. The CfGS report sets out some key recommendations and conclusions which it considers can improve how the JSC and OSC's can be more effective. These can be seen in detail through the recommendations listed in the CfGS report and the key features identified during the review and report at section 5.26 of the CfGS report. A JSC task and finish group will take those recommendations forward to generate the continuous positive improvement sought by the three scrutiny committees.
6. To ensure the task and finish group considers matters from the perspective of this authority as well as a joint perspective, the Monitoring Officer recommends that this committee nominates two members to the Joint Scrutiny Committee task and finish group.

Financial Implications

7. No immediate financial implications from this nomination.

Legal Implications

8. This report and its recommendations are intended to support the duties of proper governance imposed upon the Council by statute but also through the Council's own constitution.

Climate and ecological impact implications

9. None

Equalities implications

10. This report is for information only and therefore there are no equalities implications.

Risks

11. None.

Other Implications

12. None

Conclusion

13. None.

Background Papers

CfGS report: Appendix 1



South and Vale
Report Letter 1.0.pdf