

ANNEX 8 - SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

1. Composition and Terms of Reference

The Council appoints the following Scrutiny Committees to exercise its functions for overview and scrutiny.

[Note 1. The composition of each Scrutiny Committee describes the voting membership. Each Scrutiny Committee has power to co-opt persons who are not members of the Council in a non-voting capacity.

2. Members of the Executive may not sit on Scrutiny Committees or Topic Groups set up by them.]

(1) Children, Schools & Families

Composition : 16 members of the Council, 4 elected parent governor representatives, 2 church representatives (one appointed by the Diocese of St Albans, one by the Archdiocese of Westminster).
Remit : The policies and services of the Council as local education authority; as social services authority in relation to children; and for youth justice.

(2) Adult Care Services

Composition : 10 members of the Council.
Remit : The policies and services of the Council as social services authority in relation to adults.
Gypsy Site provision.
The Council's relationship with the Health Service.

(3) Environment

Composition : 10 members of the Council.
Remit : The policies and services of the Council as:

- county planning authority and in relation to the physical and economic environment of the County, including small holdings, Green Belt estates, rights of way and open spaces
- highway authority, work in relation to traffic and vehicle regulation, public transport, car parking policy and road safety
- waste disposal authority.

(4) Community Information & Protection

Composition : 10 members of the Council.

Remit : The policies and services of the Council for

- culture (including tourism, sport & recreation)
- securing unified access to services
- public libraries, museums and the arts
- registration of births, marriages and deaths
- fire & rescue
- civil and emergency planning
- trading standards and consumer protection
- the Coroners Service

(5) Resources Prosperity Partnership & Consultation

Composition : 10 members of the Council.

Remit : The policies and services of the Council for

- overall resource allocation
- the best value performance plan
- community leadership
- the community strategy
- central support services
- personnel matters
- property resources
- public consultation
- crime & disorder reduction
- economic & social regeneration
- relations with the Region and Europe
- equality of opportunity
- any other matter which does not fall within the remit of any other Scrutiny Committee.

(6) Audit Committee

Composition : 8 members of the Council.

Remit : In relation to all services of the Council: to review

- the adequacy of internal control systems
- financial statements
- the internal audit strategy & plan
- the annual report of the Chief Internal Auditor
- the implementation of Internal Audit recommendations
- the annual external Audit Plan except in so far as it relates to value for money issues (which fall within the remit of the relevant Scrutiny Committee)
- management's response to key issues and recommendations in District Audit and the District Auditor's management letter, except in so far as it relates to value for money issues, which fall within the remit of the relevant Scrutiny Committee.