

The Role of Scrutiny in Meeting the Public Sector Equality Duty

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a key role to play in ensuring that the Council meets all the statutory duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty of the Equality Act 2010, particularly in ensuring that the authority has due regard to the needs of diverse groups when designing, evaluating and delivering services in order to –

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

In order to do this, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will scrutinise the Council's Equality and Diversity Action Plan and Annual Achievement Report each year to monitor the Authority's performance. The OS Committee will be flexible enough to pick up on issues of inequality, wherever they arise in the Council work programme, or to delegate to individual workstreams for investigation. OSC has a key role in providing a 'critical friend' challenge to the Council's strategic equality objectives and scrutinising performance in delivering those objectives.

In addition, as part of their normal work programme, each workstream will (where relevant and proportionate) -

- request information about the equality impact assessments/analyses that have been undertaken whenever discussing proposals for new policies or future plans, or for current services, to inform their comments on those proposals or services
- examine these assessments/analyses of impact in detail to check if they are robust and have been developed based on strong evidence and appropriate engagement
- question and consider whether appropriate people have been involved and engaged in developing equality objectives and plans, and when assessing the impact of policies and proposals.
- when procurement award criteria and contracts are determined, consider whether or not specific equality stipulations are required
- Scrutiny may also wish to investigate the accessibility of equality and other published documents, asking questions such as –
 - what is done to promote these documents?
 - what languages or formats is the information available in?
 - which documents are most regularly required?
 - how aware are the public of the Authority's equality plans and performance?

CRIME SCRUTINY PANEL: WORK PROGRAMME 2019/2020

WORK	Thursday 13 June (Work Planning)	Thursday 12 September	Tuesday 28 Jan	Tuesday 17 Mar
Deadline for sending papers to Scrutiny Team	N/A			
Panel Work Programme 2019/20 – To consider the Panel work programme	Agree work programme			
Standing Items				
SSCB Partnership Plan & Strategic Priorities – To review the development of the Plan and strategic priorities for 2020 – 21.		Verbal update		Progress Update –
SSCB Performance Management – provide a monitoring overview on performance of SSCB		Monitoring Update	Monitoring Update	Monitoring Update
Briefings, Monitoring & Updates:				
Update from the Fire Brigade (on the work they are doing to reduce crime)		Report		
Prostitution				Presentation
Burglary			Report	
Cuckooing			Report	
Parks (issues of safety and vandalism)		Report		
Structure of North Area BCU and officer vacancies			Update	Update
Police Brief Plan				Report
Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion				Update