

Report To:	PRINCIPAL SELECT COMMITTEE
Date:	6 JUNE 2024
Heading:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY STATUTORY GUIDANCE
Executive Lead Member:	NOT APPLICABLE
Ward/s:	NOT APPLICABLE
Key Decision:	NO
Subject to Call-In:	NO

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to share with Members of the Principal Select Committee recently published statutory guidance from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities titled *Overview and Scrutiny: Statutory Guidance for Councils, Combined Authorities and Combined County Authorities*.

Recommendation(s)

Members of the Principal Select Committee are recommended to:

- a. Note the recently published statutory guidance from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities titled *Overview and Scrutiny: Statutory Guidance for Councils, Combined Authorities and Combined County Authorities*.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

It is important for the Principal Select Committee, with responsibility for management of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function, to keep up to date with the latest statutory guidance and best practices.

Alternative Options Considered

No alternative options have been considered. It is important for the Principal Select Committee, with responsibility for management of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function, to keep up to date with the latest statutory guidance and best practices.

Detailed Information

On 22 April 2024, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities published statutory guidance titled *Overview and Scrutiny: Statutory Guidance for Councils, Combined Authorities and Combined County Authorities*. The document is an update on previous guidance published in May 2019.

The statutory guidance has been published following the introduction of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 and is aimed at councils, combined authorities and combined county authorities in England to help them carry out their overview and scrutiny functions effectively. In particular, it provides advice for senior leaders, members of overview and scrutiny committees, scrutiny officers and any officers with a role in supporting scrutiny committees.

The guidance covers:

- Introduction and context
- Culture
- Resourcing
- Selecting committee members
- Power to access information
- Planning work
- Evidence sessions

Along with the following annexes:

- Annex 1: Illustrative scenario – creating an executive-scrutiny protocol
- Annex 2: Illustrative scenario – engaging independent technical advisers
- Annex 3: Illustrative scenario – approaching an external organisation to appear before a committee

The complete guidance is appended to this report.

Members are asked to note the statutory guidance and consider any implications for the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The Council is committed to ensuring the Overview and Scrutiny function, through the appointed Select Committees, continues to follow statutory guidance and best practice.

Legal:

Overview and Scrutiny: Statutory Guidance for Councils, Combined Authorities and Combined County Authorities has been issued under section 9Q of the Local Government Act 2000 and under paragraph 2(9) of Schedule 5A to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and under paragraph 2(9) of Schedule 1 to the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, which require authorities to have regard to the guidance.

Finance:

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	N/A
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	

Risk:

There are no risks resulting from the recommendations within this report.

Human Resources:

There are no HR implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

Environmental/Sustainability:

There are no environmental/sustainability implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

Equalities:

There are no equalities implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

Other Implications:

There are no other implications resulting from the recommendations within this report.

Reason(s) for Urgency

None.

Reason(s) for Exemption

None.

Background Papers

None.

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