Section 3: Overview and Scrutiny

Scrutiny Leadership Board

1. To co-ordinate the work of the scrutiny function, ensuring no duplication or gaps across the three committees and ensuring each committee is undertaking an effective programme of in-depth work.
2. To ensure a learning approach to scrutiny is taken, sharing lessons across the three committees and seeking to continuously improve the function.
3. To lead on the design and provision of any necessary development and training for scrutiny members and review of key scrutiny policies and documents including the role descriptions related to scrutiny.
4. To ensure robust systems capturing the added value of scrutiny and impact of reviews.
5. To raise the profile of scrutiny both internally and externally.
6. To meet with Executive Members both individually and collectively (and where appropriate the Corporate Leadership Team) during the Municipal Year on an informal basis, to discuss respective work programmes and future developments.
7. To undertake specific scrutiny activities in the following areas:
   a. Oversight of key corporate cross-cutting strategies and plans, including the Council Plan and overarching performance against those strategies and plans.
   b. To assist in identification of value for money reviews to be carried out by Scrutiny Committees to inform the budget scrutiny process.
   c. Overarching role relating to monitoring key performance data of the Council.
   d. To instigate task and finish working on key financial or strategic scrutiny topic areas.
   e. To receive referrals for scrutiny work from the Audit Committee and develop the relationship between scrutiny and audit.

Scrutiny Committees

1. To discharge the Council’s overview and scrutiny responsibilities as detailed in the Local Government Act 2000. In order to carry out the functions effectively, the Committees will:
   - Hold the Executive and Cabinet Members to account in terms of both decisions taken and proposed Key decisions published in the Forward Plan
   - Undertake policy development task and finish work and monitor the implementation and impact of new and existing policies
   - Make reports or recommendations to the Executive with respect to the discharge of any executive or non-executive function of the Council and other public bodies in the area
   - Scrutinise relevant service performance information to ensure that targets are met in order to improve outcomes in these specific areas
   - Monitor the implementation of accepted scrutiny recommendations
   - Ensure compliance with the approved Protocol on Overview and Scrutiny Committee / Cabinet member relations
   - Undertake a series of scrutiny review panels
Appendix 10(a)

RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS

- Carry out value for money reviews in order to contribute to the Council’s budget setting process

2. To deal with any decisions that have been ‘called-in’ in line with the approved procedure, i.e. to recommend that a decision made, but not implemented be reconsidered by the body or person who made it, or be referred to full Council in accordance with the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

3. To receive reports from the Local Government Ombudsman, when the Council is recommended to ensure the outcomes of decisions are presented to elected members.

Specific functions for the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee

1. To scrutinise all functions and responsibilities of the Council except for Children’s Services, Adult Services and Public Health.

2. To undertake financial management monitoring of the services that fall under the remit of the Committee including holding relevant budget holders to account.

3. To monitor and comment on the Council’s treasury management strategy, medium term financial strategy and any other overarching financial strategies deemed appropriate.

4. To discharge the Council’s additional statutory responsibilities in terms of crime and disorder scrutiny (Sections 19 to 22 of the Police and Justice Act, 2006)

5. To discharge the Council’s additional statutory responsibilities in terms of flood risk (Chapter 2, 9FH of the Localism Act 2011)

Specific functions for the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee

1. To scrutinise the functions and responsibilities of the Council relating to Adult Services and Public Health.

2. The scrutiny of local health services in accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2001, S190 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013, and any consequential regulations, directions or guidance issued by the Secretary of State and in particular:

   (i) To challenge local health services on their performance and improve health outcomes for residents of Blackpool.

   (ii) To review how and to what effect health policy is being implemented, and health improvement achieved, by the Council and local National Health Service bodies and to make reports and recommendations, as appropriate.

   (iii) To promote greater awareness of health issues within the borough and to engage the people of Blackpool in the health improvement agenda.
Appendix 10(a)

RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS

(iv) To scrutinise any proposals for a substantial development or variation of health services within the authority’s area, or any substantive changes that affect National Health Service patients residing within the authority’s area.

(v) To consider such other proposals as are referred to it by National Health Service bodies and the Council and to report back the result of its considerations to the referring body and others as appropriate.

(vi) To appoint members to Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees with other local authorities, as directed under the Health and Social Care Act 2001, to respond to consultation initiated by a National Health Service body, which is consulting more than one local authority on proposals for substantial development or variation in health services.

(vii) To engage with Healthwatch Blackpool, the Health and Wellbeing Board and community and voluntary groups as appropriate in order to ensure the views of the service user are reflected.

2. To undertake financial management monitoring of the Council services that fall under the remit of the Committee including holding relevant budget holders to account.

Specific functions for the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee

1. To scrutinise the functions and responsibilities of the Council relating to Children’s Services.

2. To undertake financial management monitoring of the services that fall under the remit of the Committee including holding relevant budget holders to account.