

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	22 May 2019

SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the establishment of a Scrutiny Leadership Board and to appoint its Chairman. Council will also be asked to review the arrangements and terms of reference of the remaining Scrutiny Committees, following the review by North West Employers.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree to constitute a Scrutiny Leadership Board to lead the scrutiny function, comprising the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the three Scrutiny Committees, the Audit Committee Chairman and a separate chairman and that the terms of reference for this Board be as set out in Appendix 10(a).

2.2 To agree the role profile for the chairman of the Scrutiny Leadership Board as set out at Appendix 10(b) and to appoint Councillor Maxine Callow as chairman of the Scrutiny Leadership Board, as she has significant experience of undertaking scrutiny and has also served on the Executive.

2.3 Subject to (2.1) and (2.2) above, that the Council receive a bi-annual report from the Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board on the impact of the scrutiny function.

2.4 To amend the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules to allow the Chairman of the Scrutiny Leadership Board to attend and speak, but not vote at any Scrutiny Committee or Panel meeting, in accordance with the role.

2.5 To note the appointments to committees are to be made in the next agenda item (agenda item 11) but to agree as a principle that the Chairman positions in all three Committees be filled by majority group councillors and the Vice Chairman positions be filled by principal opposition councillor representatives.

2.6 To agree the role profile for the co-opted members of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee at Appendix 10(c) and to delegate authority to the Director of Governance and Partnerships to determine the recruitment process for two diocesan co-opted representatives and the two governor co-opted representatives.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure effective scrutiny at Blackpool Council.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

There are no other options to consider which would be in accordance with the North West Employers review.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The proposed Scrutiny Committees and the Scrutiny Leadership Board will focus on the proposed priorities of the Council and performance management in those areas.

5.0 Background Information: Overview and Scrutiny

5.1 In 2018/ 2019 the Council had three scrutiny committees: Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, Resilient Communities and Children's Scrutiny Committee and Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee. North West Employers (NWE) was commissioned to undertake a review of scrutiny at the Council and completed their review in September 2018 with a feedback event to Executive Members, Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs and Senior Officers. Following the review a cross party working group was established to consider changes required and identify ways in which to implement the recommendations of the review.

5.2 A key recommendation of the NWE review proposed the introduction of a Scrutiny Leadership Board to drive forward the scrutiny function and be responsible for the work planning and leadership of the function. The review suggested that the Board be a management board comprising of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of each scrutiny committee, the Chair of Audit and a new Scrutiny Lead Member. At the Full Council meeting in January 2019, Members supported the introduction of the Scrutiny Leadership Board in principle. The proposed terms of reference of the new Scrutiny Leadership Board can be found at Appendix 10(a).

5.3 The Council is requested to appoint three scrutiny committees namely:

- Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee
- Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee
- Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee

The proposal is a minor variation on the previous committee structure and allows for a clear and defined focus on scrutiny of Children's Services. Statutory scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership and Flood Risk Management will be carried out by the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee with the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee designated to undertake statutory health scrutiny.

- 5.4 Previously, financial scrutiny has been carried out solely by the former Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee. In order to provide a more holistic approach the terms of reference for each committee have been amended to incorporate financial scrutiny of the services within the remit of each committee. In the new proposals, the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee will have responsibility for scrutiny of the Council's core financial strategies including the Treasury Management Strategy and the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Proposed terms of reference for each Committee can be found at Appendix 10(a).
- 5.5 At the suggestion of the NWE review and with the support of the working group, the Council is asked to endorse the suggested regular informal meetings of the Scrutiny Leadership Board with the Executive and individual relevant cabinet members with Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs of related committees in order to improve relationships and develop a stronger mechanism for input into policy development and forthcoming projects. These meetings will be undertaken informally with feedback to the Scrutiny Leadership Board as appropriate.
- 5.6 It is recommended that the Chair for the scrutiny committees be a majority party councillor and the Vice Chair of the committees be a principal Opposition councillor as previous practice. The Chair of the Scrutiny Leadership Board was identified in the review as a key role and a role profile has been drawn up attached at Appendix 10(b). It is considered that to further endorse the role of scrutiny, Councillor Mrs Maxine Callow be appointed Chair of this Board, as she has significant experience of undertaking scrutiny and has also served on the Executive. The Chair will report to Council twice a year on progress made and value added by the scrutiny function and it is recommended be allowed to attend and speak, but not vote at any Scrutiny Committee or Panel meeting, in accordance with the role.
- 5.7 It is proposed that any 'call-ins' will be dealt with by the scrutiny committee within which the subject matter falls into the terms of reference.
- 5.8 The appointments to the proposed committees are considered in the next agenda item in accordance with political balance proposals.
- 5.9 As a result of the many changes to scrutiny it is suggested that key policies and procedures be reviewed including the Overview and Scrutiny and Executive Member Protocol, the public speaking at Scrutiny Committee procedure and that a new procedure be introduced to strengthen the relationship between the Audit Committee and the scrutiny function in order to establish the pathway for the Audit Committee to make suggestions for scrutiny reviews. It is recommended that the

Scrutiny Leadership Board leads on this work.

- 5.10 A role profile for co-opted members has also been developed as a matter of good practice and it is proposed that these are used for appointing to the positions.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 10(a): Scrutiny Leadership Board and Scrutiny Committees' Terms of Reference

Appendix 10(b): Scrutiny Leadership Board Chair Role Profile

Appendix 10(c): Scrutiny Co-opted Member Role profile

6.0 Legal considerations:

- 6.1 The Local Government Act 2000 set out the statutory responsibilities in terms of the Council's scrutiny arrangements. This includes the requirement for co-opted members on scrutiny committees dealing with educational matters.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

- 7.1 There are no human resources considerations.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

- 8.1 There are no equalities considerations.

9.0 Financial considerations:

- 9.1 There may be a consideration in terms of members' allowances although these will be reported to the June Council meeting.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

- 10.1 There are no risk management considerations.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

- 11.1 There are no ethical considerations.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

- 12.1 A cross party working group was established prior to the election to consider the recommendations from the NWE review.

13.0 Background papers:

- 13.1 There are no additional background papers to this report.