

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE 2023/24

Core Areas of Responsibility

The Place Scrutiny Committee core areas of responsibility align directly with the [Corporate Plan 2023-2027](#) and the key objectives for Stronger Place, which are:

- To protect our environment, encouraging jobs, housing, and reduce pollution infrastructure that complements, rather than competes with the natural world.
- To improve existing spaces and create new places for people to live, play, gain skills and do business.
- To protect and enhance our green spaces for future generations while providing decent, safe homes to meet all our needs.

The Place Scrutiny Committee will be responsible for the scrutiny of Place; Contracts, Service Delivery & Improvement; and Regulatory Services Portfolios, as detailed below.

Key Areas covered by Place Scrutiny Committee):

Planning, Building Control, Technical Services, Enforcement, Leisure, Waste Management, Sustainability and Climate Change.

Key Objectives

1. To develop an annual work programme that effectively scrutinises the areas of responsibility outlined above.
2. To provide scrutiny of services and areas of concern that are identified by Overview and Scrutiny Committee in its review of Corporate Key Performance Indicators.
3. To engage in policy review and development, with a focus on improvement and how this can be best achieved.
4. To consider any matter referred by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet or Portfolio Holder and to make recommendations as appropriate.
5. To establish working groups and task and finish panels to undertake any activity within the terms of reference.
6. To undertake pre-scrutiny through the review of specific proposals of the Council and its partner organisations or other local service providers to help develop policy.
7. To engage with the community and encourage community engagement.
8. To monitor and review relevant projects and associated closure and benefits reports.
9. To consider the impact on customers, residents, businesses and visitors to our District, and to respond to consultation activities.

(DRAFT) Proposed Portfolio Responsibilities

Place

Matters relating to those services within the Planning Service as follows:

Local Plan implementation and review.

Development Management, Planning Policy, Tree Preservation, Landscape, Built Heritage, Conservation, Large scale S106 and CIL

Harlow Garden Town liaison / board, local Masterplans, Town and Parish Council liaison.

Climate Change, Sustainable Transport.

Contracts, Service Delivery & Improvement

Responsibility to give regular reports on the Council's major external contracts within the Contract and Technical Service review and monitor for delivery, and service improvement:

Waste & Recycling, Leisure Management, Qualis Board observer.

Highways Rangers and Highways Liaisons.

Improving commercial offer to Town and Parish Councils.

Regulatory Services

Matters relating to those services within Development Control and Planning

Enforcement:

Land Drainage, Contaminated Land, Grounds Maintenance, Arboriculture, Country Care.

Matters relating to those services within the Commercial & Regulatory Service as follows:

Licensing, Building Control, Environmental Health and Co-Ordination, Private Sector Housing, Health & Safety, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity.