



**NORTHAMPTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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### **PROTOCOL FOR THE INCLUSION OF NON-EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS IN THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCESS**

1.1 The new political structures adopted in May 2010 provided for one Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising 15 councillors whose job it is to:

- Receive Call-ins of Cabinet decisions
- Establish a yearly Scrutiny Work Programme
- Set up Scrutiny Panels to scrutinise policy development and service delivery
- Monitor the outcomes of scrutiny reviews

1.2 Scrutiny Panels play a critical role in informing future policy development in the council as well as scrutinising current policies and services both inside and outside the council.

1.3 It is important therefore that all non-executive councillors have the opportunity to be involved in the work of the Scrutiny Panels as it will:

- Give a wider democratic representation to inform the groups work
- Widen the knowledge and skills resource base of councillors involved in scrutiny.
- Give them a 'hands-on' opportunity to make a difference in areas of work that they have a specific interest in

1.4 It is hoped that non-executive councillors will elect to work on at least one Scrutiny Panel a year. The following will be put into place to help councillors to be involved:

- The draft Scrutiny Work Programme will be circulated to all non-executive councillors in May at the Annual Council

meeting, asking if they have a specific interest in any of the investigations scheduled in the forthcoming year.

- Scrutiny Panels will comprise a minimum of one Overview and Scrutiny Councillor and one non-executive Councillor. It is envisaged that an Overview and Scrutiny Councillor will chair the Scrutiny Panel.

1.5 In this Protocol the term "non-executive Councillor" refers to all Councillors other than the Leader and members of the Cabinet.