

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

A Message from Councillor Jamie Lane, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This Annual Report is a summary of just some of the work Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) has done this year, what has worked well and what issues we need to concentrate more on next year.

It has been another very busy and interesting year for O&S with four in-depth reviews being undertaken and a Working Group undertaking Scrutiny activity:

- Homelessness and Rough Sleepers
- Northampton Post Unitary
- Impact of the Move of the University
- Adult Social Care Facilities
- Evaluation of the success of Overview and Scrutiny reports at Northampton

The Scrutiny Panels reported their findings and recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its April and June 2019 meetings.

I have continued to promote the good work of Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton wider. This year I presented the work that Overview and Scrutiny does regarding public engagement in the O&S process at Northampton at the Centre for Public Scrutiny Conference in December 2018. I was delighted that they promoted this work in their publication [Scrutiny Frontiers](#).

Overview and Scrutiny work is member-led and evidence-based. It is fundamental that the work of scrutiny adds value and improvement and I feel the conclusions and recommendations from the in-depth Reviews undertaken this year have really demonstrated that. I will be pleased to present all five reports from 2018/2019 to Cabinet in the summer and autumn of 2019.

Once again, we asked the citizens of Northampton to suggest topics for Scrutiny reviews. There were over fifty suggestions from the public. I emphasise that Overview and Scrutiny values and encourages the input of the public into its Work Programming. Non-Executives carefully considered the suggestions at a workshop held in April 2019. From these suggestions, Cabinet's priorities for the year and ideas put forward by Councillors, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved its Work Programme 2019/2020 at its April 2019 meeting.

The Committee scrutinised the Council's budget proposals by delegating work to its Reporting and Monitoring Working Group who identified three budget proposals for the Committee to scrutinise in-depth. This Working Group will continue to meet during the Municipal year 2019/2020. I highlight that this is a process that has previously been noted as best practice.

I would like to thank all those who have been involved in and have supported Scrutiny over the past year. I would like to thank all those who have been involved in and have supported Scrutiny over the past year. In particular, I would like to thank my colleagues who chaired the Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups last year. These achievements are recognised in this report.

Overview and Scrutiny welcomes and encourages members of the public who live or work in the borough to get involved in Scrutiny. If you have any suggestions for the work of scrutiny we would welcome your comments by post or [email](#). For more information about scrutiny and to view current and past reports, please visit our website at www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny.

Instead of a complete commentary of all that O&S has achieved over the year this Annual Report provides a summary of the key highlights of the work O&S has been engaged in during 2018/2019. I hope it reflects what I feel has been a very important year in Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton.

I do hope that you find this report informative and interesting.



Councillor Jamie Lane
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

Achievements

How was this impact made during 2018 – 2019 ?

The Scrutiny Panels carry out in-depth Scrutiny reviews, whilst the Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee concentrates on strategic issues, including holding the Cabinet to account, performance management and scrutiny of crime and disorder. This structure attracts increased public participation and the involvement of non-Executives in Scrutiny reviews.

Involvement of Non- Executives (not Scrutiny Members) in Overview and Scrutiny

The O&S structure enables non-Executives, who are not members of the O&S Committee, to be fully involved in the O&S process.

All of the four Scrutiny Panels this year had non-Executive Councillors who were not O&S Councillors as members of the Panels. Membership for the Scrutiny Panels closed quickly as they reached maximum capacity of seven Members; this enabled the option of appointing a co-optee.

Key Example: The Scrutiny Panel that investigated Adult Social Care Facilities was made up of seven non-Executives, of which four were not O&S Councillors, demonstrating involvement of non-Executives in the O&S process.

Co Optees to Scrutiny Panels

Three of the Scrutiny Panels this year benefitted from the expertise and knowledge of co optees. The Deputy Lieutenant and a previous Mayor sat on the Scrutiny Panel (Northampton Post Unitary), the Vice Chancellor sat on the Scrutiny Panel (Impact of the Move of the University) and the Director of the Umbrella Fair sat on the Scrutiny Panel (Homelessness and Rough Sleeper).

It was a privilege and honour to have been co-opted to Scrutiny Panel 3 which was looking at how to maintain and increase civic pride and ceremonies in Northampton. The group was looking at what Northampton should reflect and improve when the two Unitaries are formed. To have the opportunity to share my own ideas and to hear those of others has given me a much better understanding of the work being done to further improve the lives of the residents of the town and thus its impact on the whole County. The Councillors led meetings that were well organised and participation by organisations and individuals led to very good debate/discussions. I always felt that I was a valued member of the Scrutiny Panel.

Morcea Walker MBE,

DL

Co Optee – Scrutiny Panel – Northampton Post Unitary

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

It was a great privilege to be co-opted onto this Scrutiny Panel about the future of Northampton "post unitary." As a historian and as a previous Mayor of Northampton I believe it is very important to preserve and protect the traditions of our town and our 800 year old Mayoralty. It was very interesting to hear that so many organisations also share these concerns and are anxious not to lose our ancient heritage.

Lee Mason

Co Optee – Scrutiny Panel – Northampton Post Unitary

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny

Key Example: Crime and Disorder Scrutiny is an example of excellent working relationships between non-Executives and partners.

The scrutiny of crime and disorder was formalised in 2010, putting in place clear working arrangements between the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the Committee. An annual report from the CSP informs the O&S Committee of work undertaken; non-Executives decide whether further review or scrutiny is required. This report focuses on the levels of performance in the light of reduced resources, if so what measures have been taken to meet any shortfall in performance. This demonstrates excellent working relationships between non-Executives and partners.

Overview and Scrutiny acts as a critical friend, it is constructive and focuses on the priorities of local people, which feeds into the priorities of the Council and its partners. The work of the committee adds great value to the delivery of the community safety partnership strategy.

Vicki Rockall

Community Safety and Engagement Manager

The O&S Committee has also looked at:

Anti Social Behaviour

Enforcement Issues – Adults riding bicycles on pavements

Performance Management Scrutiny

A process enabling the Committee to identify key performance measures earlier on was introduced in 2013/14. The Committee informs the Chair prior to a meeting of the O&S Committee of performance measures that it feels warrant future scrutiny.

The scrutiny of specifically identified measures is included on the agenda of meetings of the O&S Committee. This results in measures being reviewed on an exception basis with relevant Cabinet Members being called to present information to the Committee. Cabinet Members are scrutinised on performance, the causes of underperformance and the corrective actions being taken. Active debate is undertaken and support and challenge is offered to the recommendations being made to deliver service improvements.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

Key example: Performance management scrutiny of:-

- PP06% change in serious acquisitive crime from the baseline
- PP07% Hackney carriage and private hire vehicles inspected which comply with regulations
- HML01 total number of households living in temporary accommodation
- HML07 number of households that are prevented from becoming homeless

Critical Friend to Cabinet

Call-In

At Northampton call-in is used sparingly. During 2018/2019 there were no Call-In Hearings.

Influencing Policy Development

Four in-depth Scrutiny reviews and one comprehensive Scrutiny activity was undertaken during 2018/2019:

Homelessness and Rough Sleepers
Northampton Post Unitary
Impact of the Move of the University
Adult Social Care Facilities
Evaluation of the success of Overview and Scrutiny reports at Northampton

Review work of 2017/2018 has received Cabinet's response. Almost all of the recommendations were accepted, which highlights that Overview and Scrutiny is continuing to make significant influence of Council policy, both in terms of holding the Cabinet to account and contributing to policy development, and the well-being of the citizens of Northampton.

Raising the profile of Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton

The profile of O&S has continued to be raised with a number of important and successful reviews carried out during 2018/2019. O&S is keen to keep this up and invites suggestions for the work programme from various partners, Agencies and members of the public.

The Centre for Public Scrutiny highlighted the work of O&S at Northampton in its publication - [Scrutiny Frontiers](#).

The Chair of the Scrutiny Panel – Homelessness and Rough Sleepers, and the Democratic and Member Services Manager gave a presentation to the East Midlands Councils Scrutiny Network on the evidence gathering process of this Review, which was very well received.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

The Scrutiny review process at Northampton is widely recognised both within the Council and amongst the citizens of Northampton which is demonstrated by their attendance and interest in the O&S Committee and its Review work.

The O&S Work Programme received extensive press coverage, locally, which just under 40 individuals responded to, suggesting over 50 ideas for future Scrutiny review.

Paperless Overview and Scrutiny

As reported in the last four year's Annual Reports, the innovation attracted national interest. External interest in the innovation has again continued this year, with a number of enquiries regarding the success of the paperless Committee.

Public engagement within the Overview and Scrutiny process at Northampton

O&S has included various issues referred to it from the public onto its Work Programme. The details below provide key points of how O&S work has reflected the concerns of service users.

Key Example of review work during 2018/2019:

Impact of the Move of the University of Northampton

The report of the Cemeteries Scrutiny Review will be presented to Cabinet in the Municipal year 2018/2019. The O&S Committee will begin monitoring of the accepted recommendations in the spring 2020.

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to review the impact on the town and local areas; including student accommodation, concentrating on:

- To understand the work currently being undertaken by the University of Northampton, Northampton Borough Council (NBC), and other partners regarding the move of the University
- To gain an understanding of the social, cultural, physical, economic and environmental effects of the move of the University
- To gain an understanding of the challenges, including all areas of the town, in respect of the move of the University
- To gain an understanding of the implications of the move of the University

The Scrutiny Panel was made up from members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Graham Walker (Chair), Councillors Sam Kilby-Shaw (Deputy Chair of the Scrutiny Panel), Councillors Jane Birch, Gareth Eales, Penny Flavell, Dennis Meredith together with other non-Executive Councillor Danielle Stone. The Scrutiny Panel benefitted from the expertise of the co-optee, Jane Bunce, University of Northampton. The Scrutiny Panel received both written and spoken evidence from a wide variety of expert advisors. Desktop research was carried out by the Scrutiny Officer. Representatives undertook site visits to the University of Northampton, of which produced a

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

wealth of information that informed the evidence base of this high profile Scrutiny review. The Scrutiny Panel was very impressed by the facilities offered at the University of Northampton at its new site. Following the collation of the evidence, the Scrutiny Panel drew various conclusion and recommendations that are contained in the report. The Review took place between May 2018 and April 2019.

Councillor Graham Walker

Chair, Scrutiny Panel 2 – Impact of the Move of the University

Co-Opted Members

This year, the Scrutiny process chose to engage the expertise and knowledge of co-optees in its review process for all of its in-depth reviews. It also fully utilised expert advisors in the witness evidence process. Further details are contained at page 2 of this Annual Report.

Review work 2018/2019

O&S at Northampton has undertaken some excellent review work again this year.

The best practice Scrutiny review work has continued to be built upon. Over the last year, Scrutiny reviews have attracted interest from both external organisations and the public.

Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton continues to be Councillor-led and focuses on the major issues affecting the town. It has therefore carried out some very high profile reviews this year, the impact of which will be reported in next year's O&S Annual Report:

Scrutiny Panels

The Scrutiny Panels obtain information to inform the Review through a variety of methods, including:

- Research and briefings commissioned from officers
- Select committee-style meetings with external experts and relevant officers
- Informal interviews
- Site visits
- Surveys

Some meetings of the Scrutiny Panels are often held in a 'Select Committee' format, with the Scrutiny Panels seeking evidence through a question and answer session with senior officers, Cabinet Members, external experts, representatives of interested groups or members of the public who have relevant experience.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

Homelessness and Rough Sleepers

The objectives of this Scrutiny Panel was to review ways in which the Council and its partners engage with rough sleepers and long term homeless individuals, consider the best way in which 'Housing First' can be used to reduce rough sleeping in the borough, and understand the nature and extent of 'hidden homelessness' and how it can best be addressed.

Key Lines of Enquiry

- To gain an understanding of how and why people become homeless
- To gain an understanding of the causes and extent of rough sleeping in the borough, the impact that rough sleeping has on the health, safety and life expectancy of people who are sleeping rough, and the implications for safeguarding and community safety.
- To gain an understanding of the work that is currently being undertaken by Northampton Borough Council (NBC), local groups, organisations and voluntary services to engage with rough sleepers
- To consider the effectiveness of the action that is being taken (by NBC and local groups, services and organisations) to help people who are sleeping rough to come off the streets.
- To gain an understanding of the 'Housing First' model and consider how best it could be used to reduce rough sleeping in the borough.
- To gain an understanding of the nature and extent of 'hidden homelessness' in the borough, including the profile of the people affected and what contact (if any) they have had with NBC, Northampton Partnership Homes or local advice agencies.
- To explore various ways of connecting with, and engaging with, harder to reach groups
- To gain an understanding of the specific needs and assistance provided for young people, between the age of 16-25, including care leavers.
- To gain an understanding of the specific needs and assistance provided for ex-Offenders
- To understand how data, statistics and demographics are gathered and used to meet the needs of rough sleepers, men and women, who are homeless

The recommendations were around:

Additional bed spaces for homeless women in the borough
Housing solutions
Refresh of the Rough Sleepers' Strategy
Plan for strengthening equal relationships and partnership working
Social Media Strategy
Multi-Agency Publicity Campaign

The report will be presented to Cabinet in the Municipal year 2019/2020.

The Scrutiny Panel was made up of non-Executives, myself, Councillor Zoe Smith (Deputy Chair); Councillors Sally Beardsworth, Jane Birch, Gareth Eales and Ian Bates from the Umbrella Fair was co-opted to the Review. The Review took place between May 2018 and May 2019.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

This was an informative and at times, intense Review, with clear evidence received, exploring why individuals become homeless, a social and community phenomenon which is growing every year. I thank all those who contributed and gave their time to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel to provide this information and all those who provided comprehensive written evidence. I would particularly like to convey my thanks to those individuals who shared their experiences with the Panel about their experiences when sleeping rough and being homeless; this information has greatly informed the evidence base of this high-profile Scrutiny Review

The Scrutiny Panel held interviews with Cabinet Members, senior officers at Northampton Borough Council and a number of key external expert witnesses. Desktop research was carried out by Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer. After each meeting the Scrutiny Panel would watch a short film, such as a TED film on research into Housing First, homelessness and rough sleeping.

The value of these short films was very useful and provided additional information to the Panel. The result is an important piece of work which, when presented to Cabinet, offers several key recommendations around reducing homelessness and managing rough sleepers in the borough. I would like to thank everyone who participated and contributed to this very important piece of work.

***Councillor Cathrine Russell Chair,
Scrutiny Panel 1 – Homelessness and Rough Sleeping***

The Impact of the Move of the University

Please refer to page 5 for a precis of this review.

Northampton Post Unitary

The objective of this Scrutiny Panel was to look at Northampton, (being mindful of the potential Unitary Authority), giving particular consideration to how civic pride and ceremonies can be protected

Key Lines of Enquiry

- To gain an understanding and overview of the civic pride, events and ceremonies (compiling a formal list) that currently take place within the Borough of Northampton
- To gain an understanding of how Northampton's civic events and ceremonies are marketed
- To understand the role of the Mayor of Northampton
- To understand the roles of both the previous Northampton Borough Council and other partners in civic events and ceremonies within the borough
- To consider how the pride and history of the Borough and the Guildhall can be preserved and enhanced as part of any new Unitary Authority

The recommendations were around:

- Retaining the Mayor of Northampton

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

- The creation of a Civic Quarter
- The location of a possible Town Council
- Protection of Civic Pride
- Civic events

A comprehensive review took place between June 2018 and May 2019. A wealth of background data and information was received by the Scrutiny Panel and a series of interviews with a number of key expert advisors were held. A number of organisations and community groups provided written information. Informative site visits also took place. Desktop research was undertaken by the Scrutiny Officer, the findings of which informed the review. Information gathering was very important to this review so that the Scrutiny Panel could map the civic events and ceremonies that the Mayor of Northampton is involved in. This enabled the Scrutiny Panel to devise its recommendations that will be considered by Cabinet later this year. As part of the monitoring regime, Overview and Scrutiny will review this report six months after Cabinet has received it. I would like to thank everyone who took part in this in-depth piece of work.

**Councillor Brian Sargeant, Chair
Scrutiny Panel 3 – Northampton Post Unitary**

O&S Evaluation of Overview and Scrutiny Reports

The objective of this Working Group was to evaluate the effectiveness of Scrutiny Reviews completed to date.

Key Lines of Enquiry

- To demonstrate the effectiveness of Overview and Scrutiny reviews at Northampton
- To identify areas and means for further developing Overview and Scrutiny review process at Northampton Borough Council
- To provide objectivity by identifying evidence from the questions posed in the framework
- To highlight any potential barriers to improvement

The recommendations were around:

The good work of Overview and Scrutiny at Northampton and that in any new Unitary Authority there should be some Scrutiny process. The method of Scrutiny operated at Northampton Borough Council is retained in any new Unitary Authority

How has the work of the Scrutiny Panels made a difference to the Council and our residents?

Accepted recommendations from previous Scrutiny reviews, undertaken during the previous year, are being monitored by the O&S Committee.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

Key examples

Scrutiny Panel 1 - Child Sexual Exploitation

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to ensure Northampton Borough Council (NBC) plays an active role in tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Key lines of Inquiry:

- To gain an understanding of the work currently being undertaken by partnerships, statutory and voluntary organisations, and the Police to address these issues
- To investigate how NBC contributes to the above work
- To raise awareness of CSE, human trafficking and domestic slavery of children in Northampton
- To explore best practice elsewhere in identifying and providing support to victims of CSE
- To understand what NBC is doing outside the Scrutiny process in relation to human trafficking and domestic slavery of children

Recommendations were around:

Making Public Spaces Safer
Communication and E- Safety
Training and Awareness Raising

Cabinet has responded to the recommendations in details and Overview and Scrutiny is monitoring the effectiveness of these recommendations.

Scrutiny Panel 2 – Homelessness (pre decision Scrutiny)

The purpose of the pre-decision scrutiny review was to review how the Borough Council and its partners prevent homelessness and to respond to those without homes in the borough.

Key Lines of Enquiry

- To gain an understanding of the work currently being undertaken by Northampton Borough Council (NBC), partnerships, statutory and voluntary organisations to address homelessness
- To assess the extent of homelessness and rough sleeping in the borough assess the initiatives currently in place to tackle homelessness
- To examine the Council's Severe Weather Provision
- To gain an understanding of the effect on the health, wellbeing and the safety of homelessness people, including rough sleepers

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

- To gain an understanding of the causes and barriers to support homelessness
- Identify any specific groups that are not accessing services

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is continuing to monitor the impact of the accepted recommendations.

Dementia Friendly Town

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to investigate the town of Northampton can become a Dementia Friendly Town.

Key Lines of Enquiry

- To gain an understanding of what Dementia is, and its symptoms
- To gain an understanding of the Dementia Friendly Communities Programme, Dementia Friendly Communities Recognition Process, the BSI Code of Practice for Dementia Friendly Communities (and the foundation criteria),
- To gain an understanding of the Dementia Friends Programme and Dementia Friends Champion
- To gain an understanding of the effect on the health, wellbeing and the safety of people with dementia and their carers/families
- To gain an understanding of current and potential partnership working
- To gain an understanding of the causes and barriers to supporting people with Dementia
- Identify any specific groups that are not accessing services

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is busy monitoring the impact of the accepted recommendations.

Environmental Services Contract

Cabinet considered the interim findings of the Working Group and noted that Overview and Scrutiny Committee is satisfied that the right processes have taken place to date. The processes to date has been robust and carried out with due diligence. Cabinet also noted that Overview and Scrutiny Committee is satisfied that the procurement process has been robust.

The Committee will continue to monitor the Environmental Services Contract.

Culture and Tourism

The purpose of the Scrutiny panel was to investigate and promote Northampton's heritage and culture on a national and global platform. To increase visitor numbers to Northampton through its diverse heritage and cultural offering. To increase jobs and spending linked to tourism. To use the vehicle of tourism. To use the vehicle of tourism to provide learning about Northampton.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

Key Lines of Enquiry:

- To gain an understanding of the culture and heritage within the Borough of Northampton
- To gain an understanding of how Northampton's tourism, heritage and culture offer is marketed and to identify any gaps that can be developed
- To receive an overview of Northampton's heritage assets
- To review the extent to which a holistic image of Northampton as an attractive cultural, heritage and tourism place to visit.
- To understand the roles of both Northampton Borough Council and other partners in promoting the town of Northampton.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is busy monitoring the impact of the accepted recommendations.

Cemeteries

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to review cemeteries in the Borough, concentrating on:

Key Lines of Enquiry

- To gain an understanding of the maintenance and health and safety requirements within the Borough's cemeteries
- To gain an understanding of the financial implications around maintenance and health and safety requirements within the Borough's cemeteries
- To gain an understanding of the financial implications around amenities and facilities within the Borough's cemeteries

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is busy monitoring the impact of the accepted recommendations.

Budget Scrutiny

Each year, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee sets up the Reporting and Monitoring Working Group to:

- To review the budget proposal.
- To consider the Council's medium term financial plans.
- To recommend a short list to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for detailed consideration.
- To consider suggestions from the public and other Councillors for items to be included in the short list for scrutiny.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

Overview and Scrutiny finds it helpful for a small Working Group of Councillors to take a brief overview of all the budget proposals and bring a small selection to the Committee for detailed scrutiny.

This year the Working Group comprised ten Councillors from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting in January 2019, undertook budget scrutiny of the following issues:

- HRA Housing Delivery Programme (HRA Capital)
- Restructure of Housing Options and Advice Team
- Central Museum Development
- Environmental Services Contract Review
- Reduction in shop income
-

Looking ahead

The Work Programme for 2019/2020 was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the spring 2019. One Scrutiny Panel and one Working Group will be set up and will scope the reviews:

- Food Poverty – Scrutiny Panel
- Gangs and knife Crime – Working Group

Details of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019/2020 will be published on the Overview and Scrutiny [webpage](#) as soon as it is finalised.

What are our Challenges for 2019/2020?

- To build on Overview and Scrutiny's achievements by setting stretching targets to broaden our impact. An example would be to ensure the Committee continues to undertake pre-decision scrutiny activities.
- To ensure that Overview and Scrutiny continues to make a positive contribution to the development of policy and the continuous improvement of the Council's operations.
- To continue to ensure the O&S work programme reflects concerns of service users, community and public – ensuring that a wide range of organisations, partners and the public are consulted with for suggestions for scrutiny review and then on the actual work programme.
- To ensure O&S is able to respond effectively to legislative requirements, such as the new powers, for example, wider powers to influence policy and public service delivery in their area – for example investigated issues beyond its traditional remit but affect local people.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

- To continue to ensure O&S works with the community and key partners to respond to concerns. We often do this by involving the community and key partners as witnesses or co-optees to our Scrutiny review process.
- To continue to ensure that the work of O&S has a positive effect on decision-makers and provide evidence that it has made a real difference.
- To continue to increase public participation in O&S at Northampton by increased public suggestions for scrutiny review and increased attendance at O&S Committee and Panel meetings. This process has continued to increase year on year.

Glossary of Terms

Call-In

The process by which the O&S Committee considers whether a decision is properly taken or is the right decision.

Cabinet (Executive)

The Executive body responsible for the day-to-day running of the Council and the development of policy. Cabinet Members have portfolios or areas of responsibility (e.g. Housing) for which they take executive decisions.

Councillor (Member)

An elected local representative on the Council, a Councillor represents the interests of the people who live in their ward and Northampton as a whole

Pre-decision Scrutiny:

O&S may inform Executive decisions on topics on the Forward Plan by making evidence based recommendations or advice prior to formal decision by the Executive.

Review

A study led by Scrutiny Councillors on a current issue, selected by the Committee. It aims to identify areas of good as well as poor practice, compare performance with other Councils' countrywide, and challenge existing practice where relevant.

The review will lead to recommendations for improvements to relevant Cabinet Members as well as outside agencies, such as health trusts. While these are not obliged to support the recommendations, effective consultation has been proven to lead to consensus and to Cabinet support for reviews undertaken.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

Contact details for more information

Tracy Tiff, Democratic and Member Services Manager, is always very happy to speak to local people about the activities of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. If you have any comments or queries, or would like to suggest areas which may be appropriate topics for future work, you can speak to her by calling 0300 330 7000 or by [email](#).

You can view recent agendas and minutes on the Council's website at www.northampton.gov.uk or by contacting [Democratic Services](#)

Overview and Scrutiny has its own dedicated website within the Council's website. The current work of Overview and Scrutiny and the reports already published are available on this site. The address is www.northampton.gov.uk/scrutiny

Suggest an item for Overview and Scrutiny to investigate?

Do you have any suggestions for issues for inclusion onto the Overview and Scrutiny future Work Programme? If so please complete the form overleaf and return to: -

Democratic and Member Services
Northampton Borough Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE

Email: [Scrutiny](#)

Suggest an item for Overview and Scrutiny to investigate

Do you have any suggestions for issues for inclusion onto the Overview and Scrutiny future Work Programme? If so please complete the form opposite and return to: -

Democratic and Member Services
Northampton Borough Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE

Email: [Scrutiny](#)

Just as Overview and Scrutiny has considerable influence when used in the right way, there are times when other procedures are more appropriate.

Overview and Scrutiny cannot help in the following areas:

Individual complaints about specific issues - these should be taken up through Northampton Borough Council's Customer Care Procedure.

Proper accounting for money of the Council - this is the responsibility of the Audit Committee - for information, contact 01604 837722

The conduct or behaviour of a councillor or officer - this is the responsibility of the Standards Committee - for information, contact 01604 837408.

It cannot be guaranteed that items raised in this way will actually be considered by Overview and Scrutiny.

Suggested Issue for Overview and Scrutiny

Name:

Email:

Telephone

Issues suggested for inclusion on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/2019

If English is not your first language and you need help in translating this document please contact Tracy Tiff on 01604 837408.

Jesli angielski nie jest Twoim jezykiem ojczystym
a potrzebujesz pomocy w przetlumaczeniu tego
Если английский не Ваш родной язык и Вам
нужна помощь с переводом этого документа,
то свяжитесь с Трайсу Тиф.Тел. 01604 837408

Haddii afka Ingriisigu aanu ahayn luuqad-daada
kowaad oo aad u baahan-tahay in laga caawiyo
turjumidda warqaddan fadlan kala xidhidh Tracy
Tiff tilifoonka 01604 837408

如果英語不是你的主要說用語言而需要幫助將這
份文件翻譯，請致電 01604 837408 向 Tracy Tiff
提出要求。

যদি ইংরেজী আপনার মাতৃভাষা না হয় এবং এই দলিলটি অনুবাদে
আপনার সাহায্যের দরকার হয় তবে অনুগ্রহ করে ট্রেইসি টিফ-এর
সাথে 01604 837408 এই টেলিফোন নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করুন।

LARGE PRINT AND TAPE

If you would like this document as large print or as a tape recording please call
01604 837408