



REPORT TO:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (SCRUTINY)
DATE:	16 FEBRUARY 2017
REPORT OF THE:	FRONTLINE SERVICE DELIVERY LEAD
TITLE OF REPORT:	CLG INQUIRY INTO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the review into overview and scrutiny arrangements for local government being undertaken by the Communities and Local Government (CLG) Committee and to agree the mechanism for preparing a written submission.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members:
- (i) note the questions being asked by the review and submit any comments to the Frontline Service Delivery Lead by 24 February 2017
 - (ii) that a submission based on comments received be submitted by the Frontline Service Delivery Lead in consultation with the Chair of O & S by 10 March 2017

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To feedback the views of Ryedale District Council (RDC) on overview and scrutiny arrangements for local government to the CLG Committee for inclusion in their inquiry.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 No significant risks have been identified

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The current overview and scrutiny arrangements were introduced in 2000 by the Local Government Act.
- 5.2 Views of all Overview and Scrutiny Members to be requested ahead of preparation of the RDC submission to CLG.

REPORT

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

6.1 The Communities and Local Government (CLG) Committee launched an inquiry into overview and scrutiny in local government on 24 January 2017. The Committee will consider whether overview and scrutiny arrangements in England are working effectively and whether local communities are able to contribute to and monitor the work of their councils and a link to the full details is included below:

- [Inquiry: Overview and scrutiny in local government](#)
- [Communities and Local Government](#)

6.2 The Committee invites written evidence on:

- Whether scrutiny committees in local authorities in England are effective in holding decision-makers to account
- The extent to which scrutiny committees operate with political impartiality and independence from executives
- Whether scrutiny officers are independent of and separate from those being scrutinised
- How chairs and members are selected
- Whether powers to summon witnesses are adequate
- The potential for local authority scrutiny to act as a voice for local service users
- How topics for scrutiny are selected
- The support given to the scrutiny function by political leaders and senior officers, including the resources allocated (for example whether there is a designated officer team)
- What use is made of specialist external advisers
- The effectiveness and importance of local authority scrutiny of external organisations
- The role of scrutiny in devolution deals and the scrutiny models used in combined authorities
- Examples where scrutiny has worked well and not so well

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The following implications have been identified:

- a) Financial
None
- b) Legal
None
- c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental, Crime & Disorder)
None

8.0 NEXT STEPS

8.1 The Frontline Service Delivery Lead will collate responses received from Overview and Scrutiny Members which are required by 24 February to allow time to prepare a response in consultation with the Chair of O and S. The deadline for submissions of evidence is 10 March 2017.

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Background Papers:

Links to further information on the CLG Inquiry are included in the report.