



Overview and Scrutiny Councillor's Conduct Protocol

Effective Overview and Scrutiny of the Council's policies, decision making and delivery of services is a legal requirement of non-executive councillors.

This Protocol seeks to clarify the standards of conduct expected of those Councillors involved in the Overview and Scrutiny and Scrutiny Panel's processes and give guidance to those councillors who are involved in this work.

Compliance to the following standards is required of all Overview and Scrutiny councillors and a breach of the standards will be referred in the first instance to the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and if unresolved to the Chair of the Standards Committee:

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Panels will conduct their business in a friendly and orderly way in order to maximise the participation of all Members and facilitate constructive debate. In so doing, Councillors will refrain from personal criticism of other Councillors and officers, whatever their position in the Council.
2. Attendance by all Councillors is important to ensure the democratic processes are achieved, all points of view are given and full discussion takes place with continuity of discussion and debate. Those councillors appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Scrutiny Panels will therefore be expected to give priority to attending scheduled meetings.

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3. Individual Councillors will be expected to uphold the highest standards of probity and integrity as laid down in the Member's Code of Conduct and set out in the Council's Constitution. They will use their powers of scrutiny in a manner worthy of the trust placed in them by the local people.
4. Scrutiny Councillors will be expected to engage in all scrutiny learning and development opportunities provided by the Council in order to carry out their roles as effective scrutineers.
5. The Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Panels will ensure effective working relationships with the Party Whips.