

The background of the cover features a pair of glasses with a magnifying glass effect. The lenses are positioned over a textured surface that appears to be a grid of small, circular elements, possibly representing data or a microscopic view. The overall color palette is dark, with shades of black, grey, and brown, accented by a bright yellow light source that creates a strong glow and reflection on the lenses and the surface below.

Report of the
Overview & Scrutiny
Committee

Annual Report
2017/2018



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/2018

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 three comprehensive reviews being undertaken:

- Cemeteries
- Tourism and Culture
- Dementia Friendly Town

The Scrutiny Panels reported their findings and recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its April 2018 meeting.

The O&S Committee set up a Working Group that undertook a short, sharp review – O&S Re-provision of the Environmental Services Contract Working Group.

The Working Group reported its conclusions and recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its April 2018 meeting.

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 four reports from 2017/2018 to Cabinet in the spring 2018.

Once again, we asked the citizens of Northampton to suggest topics for Scrutiny reviews. There were around seventy five suggestions from the public. I would add 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 2018. From these suggestions, Cabinet's priorities for the year and ideas put forward by Councillors, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved its Work Programme 2018/2019 at its April 2018 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 2018/2019. 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 also like to convey my thanks to the many witnesses, the three Co-Optees and members of the public that have that have contributed to scrutiny's work this year. Their participation brings knowledge, ideas and enthusiasm to the work of Scrutiny.

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](mailto:scrutiny@northampton.gov.uk). 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 2017/2018. I hope it reflects what I feel has been a very productive year in Overview and Scrutiny. I do hope that you find this report informative and interesting.



Councillor Jamie Lane
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Achievements

How was this impact made during 2017 -2018?

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.

Two of the three Scrutiny Panels this year had non-Executive Councillors who were not O&S Councillors as members of the Panels. There was not an opportunity for other non-Executives, to join the Scrutiny Panel – Dementia Friendly Town as seven Councillors from the O&S Committee conveyed their interest in the topic and the membership was closed to other non-Executives.

Membership of the Scrutiny Panels was closed when it reached seven Councillors; this enabled the option of appointing a co-optee.

Key Example: The Scrutiny Panel that investigated how Northampton's heritage could be promoted, how visitor numbers could be increased, jobs and spending linked to tourism increased and how the vehicle of tourism could be used to provide learning about Northampton was made up of seven non-Executives, of which two were not O&S Councillors, demonstrating involvement of non-Executives in the O&S process.

Co Optees to Scrutiny Panels

All of the Scrutiny Panels this year benefitted from the expertise and knowledge of co optees. A representative from Northants Carers sat on the Scrutiny Panel (Dementia Friendly Town), a Funeral Director sat on the Scrutiny Panel (Cemeteries) and the Chief Executive of the local theatres, who sat on the Scrutiny Panel (Culture and Tourism.)

“Being co-opted was an interesting and enlightening experience for someone, such as myself who has had no previous experience in this area. The opportunity to express both the opinion of my industry as well as my own and to have such opinions recognised was appreciated. Moreover was the panel's interest and acceptance of the opinions of external groups and individuals, all of which were considered seriously. The discussions and evidence presented will help in the development of a plan going forward to ensure that the maintenance and availability of cemeteries as well as the ongoing provision of grave space in Northampton will remain an important consideration for the council. “

Simon Hollowell
Hollowells Funeral Directors –
Co-Optee Scrutiny Panel 1, Cemeteries.

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“It was a privilege to be co-opted onto Northampton Borough Council scrutiny panel regarding achieving Dementia Friendly Town status for the town. It was clear that there was a true commitment from councillors and officers alike to understand dementia on its impact on families and enabling residents to live well with dementia.

It was encouraging to hear councillors bring their experiences and that of other residents to meetings as well as not being afraid to listen to outside experts.

I have come out of the meetings with actions about how our organisation can better support families living with dementia and I hope that a successful implementation of Northampton becoming Dementia Friendly will further improve the situation for residents.”

Gwyn Roberts
Deputy Chief Executive
Northamptonshire Carers

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.

The work and commitment of Overview and Scrutiny is greatly valued, it helps to shape, drive and support the delivery of the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership.

Vicky Rockall
Community Safety Partnership Manager

The O&S Committee has also looked at:

- Neighbourhood Policing
- Safety in the Town Centre
- Trips and fall
- Enforcement Contract
- Purple Flag

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

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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.

Key example: Performance management scrutiny of:-

- HML07 – Homeless Households
- PP16 – Off Licence Checks
- PP06 - %age change in serious acquisitive crime from the baseline (m)

Critical Friend to Cabinet

Call-In

At Northampton call-in is used sparingly. During 2017/2018 there was one Call-In Hearing which was not upheld by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Influencing Policy Development

Three in-depth Scrutiny reviews were undertaken during 2017/2018:

Cemeteries
Culture and Tourism
Dementia Friendly Town

Review work of 2016/2017 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 2016/2017. 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 Scrutiny review process at Northampton is widely recognised both within the Council and amongst the citizens of Northampton.

The O&S Work Programme received extensive press coverage, locally, which just under 50 individuals responded to, suggesting over 75 ideas for future Scrutiny review.

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Paperless Overview and Scrutiny

As reported in last three 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 2017/2018:

Cemeteries

The report of the Cemeteries Scrutiny Review was presented to Cabinet in the Municipal year 2017/2018. The O&S Committee will begin monitoring of the accepted recommendations early in 2019.

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

- Maintenance and health and safety requirements
- Amenities and facilities
- Financial implications

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its work programming event in April 2017, agreed to include a review of cemeteries onto its work programme for the year. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 1 to undertake the review. An in-depth review commenced in June 2017 and concluded in March 2018.

"The Scrutiny Panel was made up from members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – together with other non-Executive Councillors. The Scrutiny Panel benefitted from the expertise of the co optee, Simon Hollowell of Hollowell's Funeral Services.

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 various cemeteries around the borough and also visited the cemetery at Kettering. All of which produced a wealth of information that informed the evidence base of this high profile Scrutiny review.

Following the collation of the evidence, the Scrutiny Panel drew various conclusion and recommendations that are contained in the report."

Councillor Brian Sargeant

Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1 - Cemeteries

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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 2017/2018

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.

Culture and Tourism

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was:

- To 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 provide learning about Northampton.

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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 an 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 recommendations were around:

An Action Plan for Culture and Tourism

Vision

Definitions

Promotion

Education and Heritage Talks

Tourist Information Centre

Signage

The report will be presented to Cabinet in the Municipal year 2017/2018.

The Scrutiny Panel was made up from members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee together with other another non-Executive Councillor. The Scrutiny Panel benefitted from the expertise of the co optee, Martin Sutherland, Chief Executive, Royal and Derngate Theatres.

From its evidence gathering the Scrutiny Panel realised there are a lot of events organised and there is a need to build on this success to attract visitors from across the country. The Scrutiny Panel held its meetings in a number of various locations around the town, including the Doddridge Centre, Delapre Abbey and the Great Hall at the Guildhall, noting the history of these venues. 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. There was a very good response to the survey of the Scrutiny Panel; comments received have informed the evidence base of this Review. Representatives of the Scrutiny Panel undertook site visits to Market Harborough and Rugby, valuable information was gathered from these towns; all of which informed the evidence base of this important Scrutiny review. The Scrutiny Panel was also pleased to have benefitted from a site visit to Delapre Abbey. Following the collation of the evidence, the Scrutiny Panel drew various key conclusion and recommendations that are contained in the report. The Review took place between June 2017 and April 2018.

I would like to thank all those acknowledged below who gave up their time and contributed to this Review.

Councillor Jamie Lane

Chair, Scrutiny Panel 2 – Culture and Tourism

Dementia Friendly Town

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

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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

Following approval of its work programme for 2017/2018, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting in April 2017 commissioned Scrutiny Panel 3 to undertake the review – Dementia Friendly Town. An in-depth review commenced in June 2017 and concluded in April 2018.

A Scrutiny Panel was established. Gwyn Roberts, CEO, Northamptonshire Carers was co-opted to the review.

The recommendations were around Northampton becoming a Dementia Friendly Town.

The report will be presented to Cabinet in the Municipal year 2017/2018.

This was a very interesting and informative Review; with clear evidence which was received in a variety of ways. I thank all those who gave up their time to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Panel to provide this information and all those who took the time to send comprehensive written evidence. I would particularly like to convey my thanks to the Lutterworth Care and Share Group that made the Scrutiny Panel feel so welcome when we visited in the autumn.

The Scrutiny Panel held interviews with Cabinet Members, Senior Staff at Northampton Borough Council and a number of expert external witnesses. Desktop research was carried out by Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer.

After each meeting the Scrutiny Panel were able to watch a short film, such as a TED film, on research into dementia, assistance provided to those living with dementia and their carers and films around dementia friendly towns. These short films proved invaluable and very useful in providing the Panel additional information using a different media.

The Scrutiny Panel was offered Dementia Friends training, which I can only commend.

The result is a piece of work which recommends to Cabinet a number of key recommendations aimed at how Northampton can become a dementia friendly town and fulfilling the requirements of our original specification.

I think the Panel should be very proud of this report and would like to thank everyone who participated and contributed to this very important piece of work.

Councillor Cathrine Russell

Chair, Scrutiny Panel 3- Dementia Friendly Town

Cemeteries

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

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O&S Re-provision of the Environmental Services Contract Working Group

The purpose of this Scrutiny activity was to:

- Help non-Executives understand the re provision process and the legal framework around the re-provision of the contract.
- Enable non-Executives to meaningfully challenge the rigour and robustness of the process.

Two non-Executive Councillors called in the decision of Cabinet of 16 November 2016, (item 11 – Re-Provision of the Environmental Services Contract). A Call In Hearing was held on 29 November 2016. During the deliberation session, the Overview and Committee concluded that there was a need for wider consultation, the recommendations were ill-informed, based on assumptions regarding costs, before quality; the areas of methodology used were flawed; and the contracting out option had been based on a failing contract. The Committee further concluded that there was a need for Overview and Scrutiny involvement at the relevant stages of the process.

Upon a majority vote it was resolved that:

- (1) That after all the evidence had been heard that the Call-In be accepted on the grounds that:
 - (i) there is the need for wider consultation;
 - (ii) the recommendations were ill-informed, based on assumptions regarding costs, before quality;
 - (iii) the areas of methodology used were flawed;
 - (iv) the contracting out option had been based on a failing contract.
- (2) That there is Overview and Scrutiny involvement in the relevant stages of the process.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee then convened a Working Group

A series of meetings were held that provided key information to the Scrutiny Working Group. Further meetings will be held during the process. An interim report of the Working Group was Cabinet ion 18 October 2017. Within this report the Working Group highlighted that:

From the information provided to the Working Group to date, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is satisfied that the right processes have taken place to date. From the information provided so far the processes to date have been robust and carried out with due diligence.

From the information received, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is satisfied that the procurement process has been robust.

The final report of the Working Group firmed up its conclusions and recommendations contained within its Interim Report.

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This Scrutiny activity took place between March 2017 and April 2018.

It was a very interesting and informative piece of Scrutiny activity, with clear evidence received. The Working Group presented its interim report to Cabinet in October 2017, its key findings at that stage being that Overview and Scrutiny Committee was satisfied that the right processes have taken place. The processes to date had been robust and carried out with due diligence. The procurement process had been robust.

The Working Group was very pleased to note that the new contractor will have both an Engagement Manager and Officer that will work on community engagement projects and liaise regulator with local groups and forums.

The final report mirrors the findings of the interim report with additional conclusions and recommendations. I would like to thank everyone who took part in this detailed piece of Scrutiny activity

Councillor Dennis Meredith

Chair, O&S Re-provision of the Environmental Services Contract Working Group

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.

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

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The report was presented to Cabinet and its response is awaited.

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
- 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, at its work programming event in April 2016, agreed to include a review around how the Borough Council and its partners prevent homelessness. An in-depth review commenced in May 2016 and concluded in March 2017.

This review links to the Council's corporate priorities, particularly corporate priority 3 - Housing for Everyone - Helping those that need it to have a safe and secure home.

Recommendations were around:

- Multi Agency Working
- Improving access to homelessness services
- Improving access to health services
- Temporary accommodation

Cabinet received the report in June 2017 and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is busy monitoring the impact of the accepted recommendations.

Museum Trust

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to undertake pre-decision Scrutiny - Scrutiny of the establishment of the Museum Trust to ensure the best outcome for the future of the Museum Service and Cultural Quarter.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Museums had advised the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programming event in March 2016 that work was underway regarding investigating the feasibility and benefits of establishing a Museum Trust. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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agreed to include a review of Museum Trust (Pre-decision Scrutiny) in its Work Programme 2016/2017 and commissioned Scrutiny Panel 2 to undertake the review. A short, sharp review commenced in May 2016 and concluded in July 2016.

This review links to the Council's corporate priorities, particularly corporate priority 1 – Northampton Alive - A vibrant town for now and the future.

Following conclusion of this short, sharp review, the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel included:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is satisfied that further investigation into the establishment of a Museum Trust including a full options appraisal will ensure the best outcome for the future of the Museum Service and Cultural Quarter.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is satisfied that the commissioning of detailed planning including a full business plan and a 5 – 10 year financial plan should be undertaken to establish a Museum Trust.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee supports the hybrid model of a Museum Trust. (A hybrid is where responsibility is devolved to a trust but assets are retained by the Council)

Overview and Scrutiny has received updates to its meetings.

Emissions Strategy (Action Plan)

The objective of the Scrutiny Review was to provide Scrutiny input into the Action Plan for the Council's Emissions Strategy

Key lines of Inquiry:

- To increase Councillor and public understanding of air quality issues in Northampton
- To understand the causes and impact of air pollution
- To understand the actions being taken to reduce air pollution in Northampton
- To understand the actions being taken by partners to reduce air pollution in Northampton
- To provide recommendations for the production of the Action Plan for the Council's Emissions Strategy, which will identify ways of improving air quality in Northampton
- Examine all current air quality management areas to ensure they are performing.

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- To see if they can be improved and consider all other factors and future factors in moving forward

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a briefing note regarding the Emissions Strategy, including hotspots, at its meeting held on 15 August 2016. Following consideration of this information it was agreed that a Scrutiny Review would commence to investigate the Air Quality Action Plan and how Scrutiny could provide input into this. An in-depth review commenced in October 2016 and concluded in April 2017.

This review links to the Council's corporate priorities, particularly corporate priority Protecting Our Environment - A clean and attractive town for residents and visitors.

Recommendations were around:

Emissions Strategy Action Plan
Councillor and Public Awareness of Air Quality Issues
Partner Agencies

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has started to monitor the impact of the accepted recommendations contained within this report.

Budget Scrutiny

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

- Review the revenue budget proposals and the Council's medium term financial plans.
- Recommend a short list to Overview and Scrutiny for detailed consideration.
- Consider suggestions from the public and other Councillors for items to be included in the short list for scrutiny.

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 eight Councillors from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting in January 2018, undertook budget scrutiny of the following issues:

- Increased income – Car parking
- Reduction in events programme
- Environmental Services Contract – Net budget stream for the Environmental

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Services vehicles

- Challenges on temporary accommodation and homelessness budgets
- HRA stock loss and mitigation through a new build programme

Looking ahead

The Work Programme for 2018/2019 was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the spring 2018. Three Scrutiny Panels will be set up and will scope the reviews:

- Homelessness and Rough Sleepers
- The impact of the move of the University of Northampton
- Northampton Post Unitary
- Evaluation of Overview and Scrutiny (Working Group)

Details of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2018/2019 will be published on the Overview and Scrutiny [webpage](#) as soon as it is finalised.

What are our Challenges for 2018/2019?

- 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.
- To continue to ensure O&S works with the community and key partners to respond to concerns.
- 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.

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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.

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Contact details for more information

Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, 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: -

Overview and Scrutiny
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: -

Overview and Scrutiny
Northampton Borough Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE

Email: [Scrutiny](mailto:Scrutiny@northampton.gov.uk)

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

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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
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