

Terms of Reference

1. Executive Scrutiny Committee has recently given consideration to a number of Scrutiny Structure and Constitutional issues arising from its review of scrutiny activities over the past year; with a view to considering whether any improvements could be introduced into scrutiny arrangements for the future.
2. The Executive Scrutiny Committee considered its responsibilities to prioritise, develop and co-ordinate the scrutiny work programme, ensuring that there was efficient use of the Select Committees' time, whilst being mindful of the emerging corporate priorities. The Committee suggested that there was a need to introduce greater flexibility to allow Select Committees to respond to Council priorities where required, by extending their remits beyond their own thematic area so as to be in a position to be able to consider requests from the Executive Scrutiny Committee to carry out a scrutiny review of 'any other matter considered to be appropriate that reflects the corporate priorities'. This was considered especially important given the potentially increasing workload of Select Committees arising from new legislative requirements and referrals. A more flexible approach would help to create capacity within the work programme.
3. Following recommendation from Cabinet, Council approved the extension of the Terms of Reference for all Select Committees on 26 March 2008, as outlined at **Appendix 1**.

Appendix 1

Environment Select Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To provide the Executive Scrutiny Committee with views on the Select Committee's priority areas for policy development and review insofar as environment, is concerned, and any other matter considered appropriate that reflects the corporate priorities'..2. Following liaison with the Executive Scrutiny Committee to adopt a programme of time-limited scrutiny reviews in relation to specific policy development and review of existing policy as regards environment, and any other matter considered appropriate that reflects the corporate priorities'..3. To monitor and review performance information relating to its thematic area.
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