Education Scrutiny Committee - Terms of Reference

General role of scrutiny committees

Within their specific terms, each scrutiny committee may:

i. establish their own working groups in order to explore issues further;

ii. review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;

iii. consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants;

iv. make reports and/or recommendations to the Council and/or the Cabinet in connection with the discharge of any functions;

v. conduct, as appropriate, any research, community or other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;

vi. consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;

vii. question members of the Cabinet, ordinary committees and officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting Oxfordshire or about their decisions;

viii. report annually to full Council on their work and make recommendations for future work programmes as appropriate;

Specific role of the Education Scrutiny Committee

The Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have a membership of 7 county councillors and 4 co-opted members. The county councillor membership will be politically proportional to the membership of the Council. The terms of reference of the Committee will be:

The specific terms of reference are:

i. To focus on the following key areas:

    a. The work of the Education Transformation Board, providing a two way relationship with the Board which oversees the education strategy, and including review of the annual report of the Board;

b. Constructive challenge on performance issues with the Education Transformation Board highlighting issues where the Committee can support the improvement dialogue;

c. Reviewing the Council's education functions including early years, Special Education Needs and school place planning;

d. Reviewing the progress of, and any issues emanating from, the School Organisation Stakeholder Group with regard to admissions patterns and Arrangements;

e. Reviewing issues raised by the Schools Forum.

ii.   To assist the Council in its role of championing good educational outcomes for Oxfordshire's children and young people;

iii.   To provide a challenge to schools and academies and to hold them to account for their academic performance;

iv.   To promote joined up working across organisations in the education sector within Oxfordshire;

v.   To review the bigger picture affecting academic achievement in the county so as to facilitate the achievement of good outcomes;

vi.   To represent the community of Oxfordshire in the development of academic achievement across the county, including responding to formal consultations and participating in inter-agency discussions;

vii.   To contribute to the development of educational policy in the county;