

EXTRACT OF ITEMS ON THE CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE ACTION PLAN THAT RELATE TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

		Recommendation	Action	Led by	Timescale	Update
ONGOING ACTIONS						
28	Organisational Leadership and Governance	Peers understand that the full performance report is sent to councillors one month before O&S to provide the opportunity for requesting the appropriate lead executive member and officer to attend O&S to be accountable for questioning. This opportunity has never been requested and should be used in order to strengthen the debate and challenge at O&S.	Agreed. Chair of Overview and Scrutiny to remind committee members of this opportunity	Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Controls, Risk and Performance Manager	Ongoing	Members receive the Performance Indicator report one month before the meeting. Members are reminded to contact the Controls, Risk and Performance Manager at least 2 week prior to the meeting date if they wish a particular indicator to be considered in more detail
54	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Future meetings would benefit from taking a longer-term view of the key issues for the district (not just focussing on the next immediate meeting), fewer, more targeted agenda items, and be focused on key areas informed by performance reports and a forward work plan. Fewer agenda items will support more allocated time for meaningful scrutiny and related debate.	Agreed. To be taken forward as part of the training for the committee members	Chair and vice chair of O+S Scrutiny support	Ongoing	The Committee to bear this in mind when considering the work programme

56	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	It is recommended that all O&S members undertake formal training to ensure a robust base of skills and expertise can be deployed in the O&S environment.	Formal scrutiny training has previously been provided to the Committee, but given changes to committee membership agree it makes sense to put in place further training and ensure that any new members receive training in the future	Chair and Vice Chair of O+S Scrutiny support Member training champions	Pending	
57	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Use the task and finish programme to support early engagement and involvement with policy making.	Agreed. To be taken forward by the Leader (on behalf of Cabinet) and Chair and vice chair of Overview and Scrutiny, to discuss work programme	Leader Chair and Vice Chair of O+S Scrutiny support	Ongoing	The Chair and Vice-Chair have met with the Leader. The Chair to provide an update
58	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	It is recommended that finish times should be agreed in the constitution and meetings end promptly at those times. There was a concern around individual personal effectiveness, accessibility, external public perception and health & safety / personal welfare of both members and officers from such excessively long and late meetings.	<p>Moving meeting times is not supported politically at the current time due to concerns it may dissuade people with caring responsibilities from standing to be Councillors.</p> <p>Alternative of allowing officers to attend meetings virtually from home to be explored</p> <p>A 'guillotine' provision on committee meetings is not supported politically at the current time due to concerns it might stifle debate. It is proposed that this is considered once the other recommendations have been</p>	Service Director Legal and Community Member training champions	Pending	

			<p>implemented regarding work programme, training and chairing of meetings to establish whether it remains an issue or has been resolved by other action.</p> <p>Training is provided to Chairs and Vice Chairs, but this could be reviewed to ensure that Chairs and Vice Chairs are able to confidently manage meetings to ensure they proceed in a timely manner</p>			
59	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Peers recommend clarification of the governance arrangements between O&S and cabinet panels.	Proposal to Full Council to clarify relationship	Group Leaders Monitoring Officer	Annual Council (May/June 2020)	
60	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Ensure the O&S forward work plan includes scrutiny of external partners and contractors as a contribution to the leadership of 'place'.	Agreed as recommendation	Chair and Vice Chair of O+S Scrutiny support	Immediate & Ongoing	The Committee have identified two partner organisations. Further work is needed to consider the format and timing.
COMPLETED ACTIONS						
27	Organisational Leadership and Governance	The peer team were surprised that only low / negative PI's were debated at O&S and those reports were shared publicly. Publishing positive performance alongside	Agreed. Reports will reflect this going forwards	Chair and Vice Chair Overview and Scrutiny Committee Controls, Risk and Performance Manager		The Controls, Risk and Performance Manager is now presenting the complete report to the Committee.

		amber and red performance would provide the public with a rounded summary of performance, allowing NHDC to outwardly celebrate what is being delivered to agreed performance levels.				This can now be marked as complete
53	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Executive members should lead at O&S and be visibly accountable for decisions and performance.	Agreed as recommendation	Executive Members	Immediate	Executive Members are now presenting reports under their remit This can now be marked as complete
55	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	The current membership of O&S was considered to be too large and would benefit from reducing from 15 members to 11 or 9.	Proposal to Full Council to reduce Committee size to 12	Group Leaders Monitoring Officer	Annual Council (May/June 2020)	The Committee membership was reduced from 16 to 12 at Annual Council on 4 June 2020 This can now be marked as complete