

Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	30 July 2020
Subject:	Overview and Scrutiny Function – Information from the Centre for Public Scrutiny		
Report of:	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	No – See reasons for the recommendations below	Included in Forward Plan:	No – See reasons for the recommendations below
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To consult with the Members of the Cabinet on both the new guidance published by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) and on Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings in Sefton, in general, with a view to providing feedback to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, in due course; together with a proposal that the Management Board develop an Executive / Scrutiny protocol for Sefton.

Recommendation(s):

- (1) That the new guidance document by the Centre for Public Scrutiny entitled “Taking Scrutiny Seriously”, as attached to the report at Appendix A, be noted;
- (2) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be advised that Cabinet Members are happy with the way in which the scrutiny function operates in Sefton; and
- (3) That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board be requested to develop an Executive / Scrutiny protocol for use in Sefton.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Technically, the issue does not meet the criteria of a Key Decision so does not need to appear on the Forward Plan. Nonetheless, a formal decision is required by the Cabinet.

The Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has requested that the guidance published by the Centre for Public Scrutiny should be forwarded to Cabinet Members and the Board has requested feedback from Cabinet Members on Overview and Scrutiny meetings in Sefton in general.

The Centre for Public Scrutiny has advocated the development of an Executive / Scrutiny protocol for use by local authorities.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

No alternative options have been considered because a decision is required by the Cabinet.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, nor are there any financial implications anticipated with the development of a protocol. Any financial implications that do arise will be reported to the Cabinet at the appropriate time.

(A) Revenue Costs

See above.

(B) Capital Costs

See above.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None
Legal Implications: None
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: None directly applicable to this report.
Commission, broker and provide core services: The development of an Executive / Scrutiny protocol should improve relationships between Cabinet and Scrutiny Members and contribute towards more effective scrutiny in Sefton.
Place – leadership and influencer:

As above.
Drivers of change and reform: As above.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: None directly applicable to this report.
Greater income for social investment: None directly applicable to this report.
Cleaner Greener None directly applicable to this report.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

In the event that the Cabinet is supportive of the development of an Executive / Scrutiny protocol, it is anticipated that consultations will take place with Overview and Scrutiny Members between September and November 2020.

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD6049/20) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD4232/20) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Appendix A – Centre for Public Scrutiny – New Guidance – “*Taking Scrutiny Seriously*”
Appendix B – Executive Scrutiny Protocol – Boston Borough Council

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is comprised of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Five meetings of the Management Board are usually scheduled during the Municipal Year in order for the Management Board to consider national, regional and local developments, including updates on working groups, "called-in" items, etc. Meetings of the Management Board are not formal and are not open to the public.

1.2 At its last meeting held on 10 March 2020, the Management Board considered a briefing note on new guidance published by the CfPS following the recent survey of scrutiny officers and councillors with an involvement in scrutiny. The briefing note indicated that one of the initial results of the recent CfPS survey had revealed that 31% of respondents agreed there is "parity of esteem between the executive and scrutiny". The CfPS had published new guidance entitled "Taking Scrutiny Seriously", as a result of the perception of scrutiny's "Cinderella status", and a copy was attached to the briefing note. The short guide was aimed at Cabinet Members and senior officers. The Management Board was advised that once the full survey results had been released, these would be made available to the Board.

1.3 Members of the Management Board raised the following matter:

- Feedback from Cabinet Members on both the new guidance and Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings in Sefton, in general, would be welcomed.

1.4 The Management Board:

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the new guidance document by the Centre for Public Scrutiny entitled "Taking Scrutiny Seriously", as attached to the report, be noted and any further updates be reported to the Management Board; and
- (2) the Chief Executive be requested to consult with the Members of the Cabinet on both the new guidance and Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings in Sefton, in general, and provide feedback to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in due course.

2. Matters for Consideration

2.1 Further to Resolution (1) above, the CfPS new guidance entitled "Taking Scrutiny Seriously" is attached to this report for information and comment.

2.2 Regarding the provision of feedback to the Management Board on Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings in Sefton, in general, Cabinet Members may wish to consider the points raised within paragraphs 3 – 13 below.

3. Statutory Scrutiny Officer

3.1 The Council's Constitution sets out the functions of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer as follows, (Chapter 9, paragraphs 43 - 47 refers):

“The Council’s Statutory Scrutiny Officer shall be the Democratic Services Manager, who shall:

promote the role of Overview and Scrutiny Committees
provide support for Overview and Scrutiny Committees
provide support and guidance to Members of the Authority, Members of the Executive of the Authority and Officers of the Authority in relation to Overview and Scrutiny.

The Designated Scrutiny Officer may not be the Monitoring Officer, Chief Finance Officer or Head of Paid Service.”

- 3.2 The Council’s Statutory Scrutiny Officer was previously a scrutiny support officer and has a number of years’ experience working on Overview and Scrutiny Committees. She has a strong background in Overview and Scrutiny and her experience brings benefits to the Overview and Scrutiny function.

4 Overview and Scrutiny Training

- 4.1 In recent years a number of training sessions have been offered to Overview and Scrutiny Members, and non-Executive Members in general, and these are summarised below:

- a) *Introduction to Overview and Scrutiny and Chairing Skills* – 5 February 2015 (2 X 3 hours’ sessions - afternoon and evening) – Delivered by North West Employers Support.
- b) *The Role of Scrutiny in Improving Services* - 10 September 2015 (2 x 3 hours’ sessions – afternoon and evening) – Delivered by North West Employers Support.
- c) *The Role of Scrutiny in Improving Services* - Councillors Training Session Monday, 13 June 2016 (2 x 3 hours’ sessions) - North West Employers Support.
- d) *The Role of Scrutiny in Improving Services* - Councillors Training Session - 4 October 2016 (1 x 3 hour’s session) – Delivered by North West Employers Support.
- e) *Chairing Skills for Members* - Friday 9 February 2018 (2 x 3 hours’ sessions morning and afternoon) – Delivered by the Local Government Information Unit.

- 4.2 Cabinet Members, particularly the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services, have been extremely supportive of training events for Overview and Scrutiny Members and have encouraged those Members to attend such training.

- 4.3 Arrangements had also been made for the Centre for Public Scrutiny to deliver a further training session on *Scrutiny Essentials and Questioning Skills* on 20 May 2020. Unfortunately, due to the lockdown position in relation to Covid-19, the

session was cancelled, although the possibility of video conferencing training and development for Members could be explored in due course.

- 4.4 The level of investment in terms of time and expenditure into regular training events, plus support by Cabinet Members for training, demonstrates the commitment and value placed on the Overview and Scrutiny Function.

5. Working Group Final Reports

- 5.1 It is usual practise for Overview and Scrutiny Committees to appoint a Working Group to undertake a scrutiny review of services during the Municipal Year. Members are requested to identify scrutiny review topics that demonstrate that the work of the Committee “adds value” to the Council.

- 5.2 During the October/November 2019 cycle of meetings, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees considered a report on the guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities, following on from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee’s inquiry into Overview and Scrutiny.

- 5.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees all agreed the recommendations contained in the report, including the following recommendation:

“that Overview and Scrutiny Working Group Final Reports and recommendations be submitted to Cabinet and then Council for final approval;”

- 5.4 Subsequently, both the Audit and Governance Committee and the Council agreed that Overview and Scrutiny Working Group Final Reports and recommendations would be submitted to the Cabinet and then Council for final approval and the Constitution would be amended accordingly. Previously, Final Reports were submitted only to the Cabinet for approval.

- 5.5 Since this change, the Ethical Business Practices Working Group Final Report has been submitted to the Council on 27 February 2020.

- 5.6 The recent change to the Constitution will increase awareness of Working Group outcomes to all Members of the Council and provide them with the opportunity to have the final approval of Working Group recommendations. This is the transferring of a power from the Executive to all Members of the Council.

6. Scrutiny of External Organisations

- 6.1 Scrutiny of external organisations that provide services to residents of the Borough is particularly strong in Sefton.

- 6.2 Some senior representatives of certain external organisations, such as the Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups, have attended meetings of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee(s) on a regular basis, and have reported on partnership work being undertaken in conjunction with the Local Authority, in addition to a

range of other work undertaken. Other senior representatives attend from time to time, as and when required.

6.3 Since January 2018, senior representatives of the following organisations have attended at least one meeting of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee(s), in order to present information and respond to questions and comments from Committee Members:

- Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority;
- Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership;
- NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group;
- NHS England (Cheshire and Merseyside);
- Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust;
- NHS Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group;
- North West Ambulance Service;
- Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust;
- Sefton CVS;
- Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust;
- North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust;
- Merseyside Police;
- Career Connect; and
- Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership.

6.4 This attendance at Overview and Scrutiny Committees by senior representatives of external organisations has allowed effective scrutiny of services by Committee Members and has encouraged a good working relationship between the O&S Committee and the external organisation.

6.5 Since January 2018, in addition to scheduled meetings, the following meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees concerned have been organised in order to scrutinise the work of external organisations:

Committee	Meeting & Date	Organisation(s) Scrutinised	Matter Considered
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care & Health)	Special Meeting - 22 March 2018	NHS England (Cheshire & Merseyside); and NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Southport & Formby Clinical Commissioning Group	The future of Hightown Village GP Surgery
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care & Health)	Re-convened Special Meeting - 03/04/18	NHS England (Cheshire and Merseyside); and NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS	The future of Hightown Village GP Surgery

		Southport & Formby Clinical Commissioning Group	
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services & Safeguarding) (Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care & Health) had also been invited to attend the meeting as the system supported children and young people aged 0 to 25.	Special Meeting - 01/07/19	NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Southport & Formby Clinical Commissioning Group; Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust; and North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	SEND Ofsted/CQC Revisit

6.6 These special meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, with their one-item agendas of business, have allowed robust and challenging scrutiny from Committee Members. It also demonstrates that Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs have prioritised certain matters, deeming them to be sufficiently important and urgent to warrant holding a special meeting.

6.7 From time to time Overview and Scrutiny Members have undertaken site visits to external organisations. Since 2017 the following visits have taken place by O&S Members:

Committee	Date	Organisation Visited
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	23/11/17	Wilton energy from waste plant in Teeside
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services & Safeguarding)	10/10/18	Dewi Jones Unit, Waterloo, Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust – In-patient mental health facility for children and young people aged 5 – 13 Commissioned by NHS England
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care & Health)	14/12/18	NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Southport & Formby Clinical Commissioning Group - Software Demonstration on Aristotle Business Intelligence

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care & Health)	10/06/19	Aintree University Hospital
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	September 19	A visit to Moorlands Junior School in Sale, Cheshire to look at United Utilities Demonstrator site re: Sustainable Drainage Systems

- 6.8 These visits contribute towards the work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees by providing opportunities for Members to view facilities and services provided, to receive information, and to ask questions. The visits also allow good working relationships with partner organisations to develop.
- 6.9 It is acknowledged that some of the Working Groups established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees undertake site visits to external organisations during the course of their reviews. A recent example is the Accommodation Strategy/Agile Working Group that undertook a site visit to Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council, prior to submitting its final report to the Cabinet in June 2017.
- 6.10 It is also recognised that some of the Working Groups established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees produce recommendations aimed at external organisations. A recent example is the Digital Inclusion Working Group that submitted its final report to the Cabinet in December 2018, including recommendations to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
- 6.11 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) usually meet informally each year to consider draft Quality Accounts from a small number of NHS Trusts. This process provides an additional facility to scrutinise external organisations and to hold the NHS Trusts concerned to account. It also allows the Committee to contribute towards the final version of the Quality Accounts in the form of comments.
- 6.12 Both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) have co-opted members included in their membership. This could be an indication of good partnership working, particularly with Healthwatch Sefton as the organisation is represented on both Committees. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) also has an Independent Advisory Member.
- 6.13 It is acknowledged that, from time to time the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) have met informally with the Chief Executive of Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, for private discussions regarding governance and viability of services at the Trust. These visits allow good working relationships to develop between the Council and the Trust. The Chair and Vice-Chair also usually hold quarterly meetings with the Healthwatch Sefton Manager and the co-opted members on the Committee. This allows any issues of concern to be discussed. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) has held meetings with representatives of United Utilities regarding increases in surface water charges.

7. Front-Line Scrutiny

- 7.1 During September 2018, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) considered a report on "Enhancing Elected Member Involvement" that proposed opportunities for a wider range of Members to engage with Children's Social Care, to enhance understanding of front-line delivery, and to take advantage of the intake of new councillors following the elections to further raise the profile of the corporate parenting role. The Committee agreed the suggested approach, namely to introduce a rota of front-line visits by Elected Members to Children's Social Care Teams.
- 7.2 Since the beginning of 2020, a number of front-line visits have been arranged and undertaken by individual Members of the Committee to the various Children's Social Care Teams. This allows Members to learn more about the service and to meet the social workers. The discussion also allows social workers to raise any issues of concern with the Member concerned.
- 7.3 Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus situation, the front-line visits have had to be suspended. It may be possible to introduce socially-distanced visits by Members in the future.
- 7.4 The front-line visits to Children's Social Care Teams have increased the effective scrutiny of Children's Services and Safeguarding measures.

8. Cabinet Member Update Reports

- 8.1 In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has previously agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 8.2 A number of Cabinet Members regularly attend Overview and Scrutiny meetings to present their Cabinet Member Reports relating to both their portfolios and the remit of the particular Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This regular attendance provides an opportunity for Scrutiny Members to question and, if necessary, to challenge Cabinet Members directly. Regular attendance demonstrates the value placed on Overview and Scrutiny by Cabinet Members.

9. Key Decision Forward Plan and Pre-Scrutiny

- 9.1 The Key Decision Forward Plan, which is updated each month, sets out the list of items to be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration during the next four-month period.
- 9.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has previously requested that only those Key Decisions that fall under the remit (terms of reference) of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be included on each O&S agenda for consideration.
- 9.3 Overview and Scrutiny Members are provided with the opportunity to pre-scrutinise items from the Key Decision Forward Plan which fall under the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members are able to request a report on a Key Decision to be submitted to a future meeting.

- 9.4 The pre-scrutiny process assists Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a formal determination being made.
- 9.5 In practice, very few Key Decisions are pre-scrutinised in Sefton. The most recent example of the pre-scrutiny process was undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding), concerning the Development of Family Wellbeing Centres, in December 2017.
- 9.6 The lack of pre-scrutiny could be an indication that the process is working well, and that Overview and Scrutiny Members do not consider that, in the vast majority of cases, issues require examination before a formal decision is taken.

10. "Call-In" of Items

- 10.1 Non-Executive Members may "call-in" decisions that have been made by the Cabinet but not yet implemented. The relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider any "called-in" items and whether the decision taken was appropriate. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may request the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Member to reconsider the decision.
- 10.2 In practice, very few items are "called-in" in Sefton. The most recent example of a "called-in" item related to the Maghull Masterplan, in March 2019.
- 10.3 "Called-in" items tend to fall under the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) and it could be said that the Committee Members have become "expert" at dealing effectively with such items.
- 10.4 The absence of many "called-in" items could be an indication that the process is working well in Sefton and that there is a consensus of agreement around most Executive decisions.

11. Work Programmes and Input by Heads of Service

- 11.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committees receive and consider a draft Work Programme at the beginning of each Municipal Year. The programmes are produced in liaison with appropriate Heads of Service whose roles fall under the remit of each Committee.
- 11.2 In producing the draft Work Programme Heads of Service are requested to include appropriate items, including any policy/strategy items.
- 11.3 Heads of Service are requested to attend meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees, where appropriate.
- 11.4 Heads of Service are also requested to consider and propose scrutiny topics for review by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 11.5 By inviting Heads of Service to contribute towards the Work Programme of items submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year, this could be an indication that there is a positive culture amongst Heads of Service towards

Overview and Scrutiny in Sefton. It also helps to ensure that the work of Overview and Scrutiny “adds value” to the Council and that the quality and level of support offered to both the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny is comparable.

12. Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 12.1 Following guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities, updates on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (LCR CA O&S) are included in the Work Programme report considered at each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.
- 12.2 A representative of the Council’s Democratic Services Team usually attends meetings of the LCR CA O&S, in order to report back on developments. Councillor Dowd, who along with other Members serve on the LCR CA O&S, is the Council’s appointed Scrutiny Link between the two bodies.
- 12.3 This reporting of updates on the work of the LCR CA O&S suggests that Sefton Overview and Scrutiny Committees are kept up-to-date and are well informed of scrutiny activity at City Region level.

13. Overview and Scrutiny Committees in Sefton

- 13.1 Overview and Scrutiny in Sefton has historically been served by four Committees that focus on key areas of Council and partner activity. These are:
- Adult Social Care and Health;
 - Children’s Services and Safeguarding;
 - Regeneration and Skills; and
 - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services.
- 13.2 Membership of Overview and Scrutiny Committees tends to be stable, although this obviously depends on election outcomes.
- 13.3 This stability of membership suggests that, over time, Overview and Scrutiny Members are able to become “expert” in the remit of their particular Committee with a good knowledge of the range of issues involved.

14. Scrutiny / Executive Protocol

- 14.1 The new guidance document by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) entitled “Taking Scrutiny Seriously”, is attached to the report at Appendix A.
- 14.2 The CfPS guidance refers to recent statutory guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities.
- 14.3 The statutory guidance suggests that councils agree a protocol between the executive and scrutiny to set out how relationships work.

14.4 The CfPS guidance indicates that “most councils do not have a protocol like this in place, although some are planning them. The sizeable number of councils where no such plans are in place is concerning.”

14.5 Although Sefton does not have an executive/scrutiny protocol, Chapter 6 of the Constitution is specifically dedicated to the scrutiny function and sets out the following:

- A. Overview and Scrutiny Committees
 - Terms of Reference
 - General Role
 - Specific Functions
 - Policy Development and Review
 - Scrutiny
 - Finance
 - Annual Report
 - Officers
 - Proceedings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees
- B. Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules
 - Number and Arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny Committees
 - Membership of Overview and Scrutiny Committees
 - Advisory Members
 - Education Representatives
 - Meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees
 - Quorum
 - Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committees
 - Work Programme
 - Agenda Items
 - Policy Review and Development
 - Reports from Overview and Scrutiny Committees
 - Consideration of Overview and Scrutiny Reports by the Cabinet
 - Rights of Overview and Scrutiny Members to Documents
 - Members and Officers Giving Account
 - Attendance by Others
 - Call-In of Decisions
 - Call-In and Urgency
 - The Party Whip
 - Procedure at Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meetings
 - Membership and Terms of Reference for Overview and Scrutiny Committees

14.6 Enquiries with other Merseyside Authorities reveal that they are at a similar stage to Sefton, in that they do not yet have a protocol between the executive and scrutiny to set out how relationships work, although most are considering the matter.

14.7 An example of an Executive/Scrutiny protocol, from Boston Borough Council, is attached to this report. The aim of the protocol is to clarify relationships between the executive and scrutiny and to help ensure the smooth conduct of overview and scrutiny business and encourage effective communication between overview and scrutiny and the executive.

- 14.8 Given that the Centre for Public Scrutiny guidance suggests that a protocol is a positive step and that other Merseyside Authorities are considering the matter, consideration could be given to developing a Sefton version of an executive/scrutiny protocol. This could be developed with input from both Overview and Scrutiny Members and Cabinet Members, and the views of Cabinet Members are sought on this.
- 14.9 In the event that the Cabinet is supportive of the development of an executive / scrutiny protocol, a draft document could be produced and circulated for comments to Overview and Scrutiny Committees during the September 2020 cycle of meetings, prior to consideration of by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in November 2020. If the draft document is supported by Overview and Scrutiny Members, it could be submitted to the Cabinet for approval in December 2020.