

Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Council Chamber, Town Hall
19 May 2010 at 1.00pm**

Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel deals with reviewing corporate strategies within the Council's Strategic Plan, the Council's budgetary guidelines for the forthcoming year, scrutinising the Forward Plan, the performance of Portfolio Holders and scrutiny of Cabinet decisions or Cabinet Member decisions (with delegated power) which have been called in.

Information for Members of the Public

Access to information and meetings

You have the right to attend all meetings of the Council, its Committees and Cabinet. You also have the right to see the agenda, which is usually published 5 working days before the meeting, and minutes once they are published. Dates of the meetings are available at www.colchester.gov.uk or from Democratic Services.

Have Your Say!

The Council values contributions from members of the public. Under the Council's Have Your Say! policy you can ask questions or express a view to meetings, with the exception of Standards Committee meetings. If you wish to speak at a meeting or wish to find out more, please pick up the leaflet called "Have Your Say" at Council offices and at www.colchester.gov.uk

Private Sessions

Occasionally meetings will need to discuss issues in private. This can only happen on a limited range of issues, which are set by law. When a committee does so, you will be asked to leave the meeting.

Mobile phones, pagers, cameras, audio recorders

Please ensure that all mobile phones and pagers are turned off before the meeting begins and note that photography or audio recording is not permitted.

Access

There is wheelchair access to the Town Hall from St Runwald Street. There is an induction loop in all the meeting rooms. If you need help with reading or understanding this document please take it to Angel Court Council offices, High Street, Colchester or telephone (01206) 282222 or textphone 18001 followed by the full number that you wish to call and we will try to provide a reading service, translation or other formats you may need.

Facilities

Toilets with lift access, if required, are located on each floor of the Town Hall. A vending machine selling hot and cold drinks is located on the first floor and ground floor.

Evacuation Procedures

Evacuate the building using the nearest available exit. Make your way to the assembly area in the car park in St Runwald Street behind the Town Hall. Do not re-enter the building until the Town Hall staff advise you that it is safe to do so.

Colchester Borough Council, Angel Court, High Street, Colchester
telephone (01206) 282222 or textphone 18001 followed by the full number you wish
to call

e-mail: democratic.services@colchester.gov.uk

www.colchester.gov.uk

Terms of Reference

Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel

- To review corporate strategies.
- To ensure the actions of the Cabinet accord with the policies and budget of the Council.
- To monitor and scrutinise the financial performance of the Council, and make recommendations to the Cabinet particularly in relation to annual revenue and capital guidelines, bids and submissions.
- To link the Council's spending proposals to the policy priorities and review progress towards achieving those priorities against the Strategic / Action Plans.
- To scrutinise executive decisions made by Cabinet, the East Essex Area Waste Management Joint Committee, the Colchester and Ipswich Joint Museums Committee and Cabinet Member decisions (with delegated authority taking a corporate / strategic decision) which have been made but not implemented, and referred to the Panel through call-in.
- To monitor the Council's operational performance in relation to the Strategic Plan, Local Area Agreement targets and National Indicators.
- To scrutinise the Cabinet's performance in relation to the Forward Plan and to scrutinise the performance of Portfolio Holders.
- At the request of the Cabinet, make decisions about the priority of referrals made in the event of the volume of reports to the Cabinet or creating difficulty for the running of Cabinet business or jeopardising the efficient running of Council business.
- The panel will be the appropriate route for any member to refer a 'local government matter' in the context of Councillor Call for Action.

Process for Councillor Call for Action

- Councillors have the ability to call for debate and discussion a topic of neighbourhood concern, limited to issues affecting a single ward, in an attempt to bring about specific solutions for local problems. This enables members to get things done without going through the Council's executive decision making process.
- Members may bring an action on any issue they choose, with exceptions, for example, if the issue is vexatious or deals with an individual complaint. Local Government matters specifically excluded from the regime are namely matters relating to a planning decision, a licensing decision or where a right of recourse to a review or right of appeal is already provided for in law.
- Poor service performance or increased anti-social behaviour are examples of where a member will bring an action to the panel's attention.
- The scrutiny panel may reject a request as not within the guidance, or the usual channels have not been exhausted, or accept that an investigation is the appropriate action.
- The panel may conduct an investigation in the usual scrutiny manner, seeking information from the Council and/or partners and inviting them to attend meetings.
- A report with recommendations will be compiled and brought to the Council and/or partners attention, with the Council and/or partners having a duty to respond.
- The panel will consider and publish the responses to their recommendations and feed back this information to the Councillor calling for the action.

**COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL
STRATEGIC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
19 May 2010 at 1:00pm**

Members

Councillors
(Chairman and Deputy Chairman to be appointed at first meeting)

Substitute Members : All members of the Council who are not Cabinet members or members of this Panel.

Agenda - Part A

(open to the public including the media)

Members of the public may wish to note that agenda items 1 to 5 are normally brief and agenda items 6 to 9 are standard items for which there may be no business to consider.

Pages

1. Appointment of Chairman

To appoint the Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year.

2. Appointment of Deputy Chairman

To appoint the Deputy Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year.

