

**Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board**

**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

**Subject: Scrutiny Board Terms of Reference**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. This report summarises recent amendments made to the Council's Constitution which directly impact on the terms of reference for the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board. The revised terms of reference for the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board are attached for Members' information (Appendix A).
2. Scrutiny Boards will continue to be aligned to the Strategic Partnership Boards and are therefore authorised to review or scrutinise the performance of their relevant Partnership Board. In accordance with the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules, Scrutiny Boards will also continue to act as 'critical friend' to their relevant Partnership Board and assess how well the Partnership is working in practice. A report summarising the Scrutiny Board's observations and recommendations following its assessment of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board in March 2013 is attached for information (Appendix B).
3. However, plans to change the existing partnership working arrangements of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board are currently being progressed by the Partnership Board. Further details of these plans are set out in the attached report (Appendix C).

**Recommendation**

4. Members are requested to:
  - (a) note the Scrutiny Board's terms of reference;
  - (b) note the report of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board on the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board;
  - (c) note and provide any comment on the plans to change the existing partnership working arrangements of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board.

## **1.0 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report presents the revised terms of reference for the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board following recent amendments made to the Council's Constitution.
- 1.2 Following the Scrutiny Board's assessment of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board in March 2013, a report summarising the Scrutiny Board's observations and recommendations is also attached for information.
- 1.3 This report also provides details of current plans to change the existing partnership working arrangements of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board which are currently being progressed by the Partnership Board.

## **2.0 Background information**

- 2.1 The Annual Review of the Constitution more often than not identifies areas for amendment in relation to the Scrutiny Boards' terms of reference to ensure consistency in wording and provide procedural clarity.

## **3.0 Main issues**

### Constitutional changes affecting the Scrutiny Board's terms of reference

- 3.1 The Enabling Corporate Centre Project provided a review of corporate and central functions and proposed a realignment of services, setting up a corporate headquarters and a new Customers and Communities Directorate. This also led to a change in post title from Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) to Assistant Chief Executive (Customers and Communities). In order to reflect such changes, amendments have been made to the Council's Constitution in relation to the Officer Delegation Scheme. The terms of reference for the Scrutiny Boards (Safer and Stronger Communities) and (Resources and Council Services) have also been amendment to reflect these changes.
- 3.2 The revised terms of reference for this Scrutiny Board clarify that it is authorised to discharge overview and scrutiny functions relating to the functions delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive (Customers and Communities) under the Office Delegation Scheme (Executive Functions) in relation to the management and oversight of area based working arrangements (including community planning).
- 3.3 The revised terms of reference for the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board are attached for Members' information (Appendix A).

### Alignment of Scrutiny Boards to the Strategic Partnership Boards

- 3.4 Scrutiny Boards will continue to be aligned to the Strategic Partnership Boards and are therefore authorised to review or scrutinise the performance of their relevant Partnership Board. In accordance with the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules, Scrutiny Boards will also continue to act as 'critical friend' to their relevant Partnership Board and consider and report on the following areas:

1. What contribution the Partnership Board is making to tackle poverty and inequality, and the progress being made against this?
2. How successfully the Board's partnership arrangements are working?
3. To what extent are significant benefits being seen from partnership working? How has partnership working ensured increased pace of change to address the issue in hand?

3.5 During March 2013, the Scrutiny Boards received a report from their relevant Strategic Partnership Board setting out their strengths and potential areas for development in respect of the three key questions above. The Scrutiny Boards were also given the opportunity to question the chair, members of the Partnership Board and support officers.

3.6 It was agreed that, following the scrutiny sessions, each Scrutiny Board would produce a summary report of its findings. The Scrutiny Support Unit would then prepare a cover report drawing out any common threads and best practice emerging from the individual inquiry sessions. The full report will be presented to Council, as the commissioning body for this piece of scrutiny inquiry work. Each Strategic Partnership Board will also receive their respective individual report, along with the cover report, and will be requested to respond to any scrutiny recommendations in the normal manner.

3.7 As the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board is aligned to the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board, representatives from this Partnership Board attended the Scrutiny Board's meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2013. A report summarising the Scrutiny Board's observations and recommendations in relation to the Safer and Stronger Communities Board was forwarded to the Partnership Board and is also attached for Members information (Appendix B).

#### Plans to change the existing partnership working arrangements of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board

3.8 The Safer and Stronger Communities Board has a broad remit across community safety, community capacity, community relations, street cleaning and parks and green spaces. As such, a significant amount of work is undertaken by its two major supporting partnerships (Safer Leeds Executive and Stronger Communities Partnership).

3.9 However, there are now plans to change the existing partnership working arrangements of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board, which are currently being progressed by the Partnership Board. Further details of these plans are set out in the attached report (Appendix C).

## **4.0 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 The amendments made to the Council's Constitution were considered by the General Purposes Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2013, prior to being formally considered and approved by Council on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration.**

4.2.1 In line with the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules, the Scrutiny Boards will continue to ensure through service review that equality and diversity/cohesion and integration issues are considered in decision making and policy formulation.

### **4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards continue to promote a strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function that focuses on the City Priorities. The Scrutiny Boards will continue to review or scrutinise the performance of their relevant Strategic Partnership Board. In doing so, they will review outcomes, targets and priorities within the Business Plan and specific "Best City for.... " priorities set out within the City Priority Plan.

### **4.4 Resources and Value for Money**

4.4.1 This report has no specific resource and value for money implications.

### **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.5.1 The amendments made to the Scrutiny Board's terms of reference aim to provide procedural clarity.

### **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 This report has no risk management implications

## **5.0 Conclusions**

5.1 This report summarises recent amendments made to the Council's Constitution which directly impact on the terms of reference for the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board. The revised terms of reference for the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board are attached for Members' information (Appendix A).

5.2 Scrutiny Boards will continue to be aligned to the Strategic Partnership Boards and authorised to review or scrutinise the performance of their relevant Partnership Board. In accordance with the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules, Scrutiny Boards will also continue to act as 'critical friend' to their relevant Partnership Board and assess how well the Partnership is working in practice. Following the Scrutiny Board's assessment of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board in March 2013, a report summarising the Scrutiny Board's observations and recommendations is attached for information (Appendix B).

5.3 However, plans to change the existing partnership working arrangements of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board are currently being progressed by the Partnership Board. Further details of these plans are set out in the attached report (Appendix C).

## **6.0 Recommendations**

6.1 Members are requested to:

- (a) note the Scrutiny Board's terms of reference;
- (b) note the report of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board on the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Board;
- (c) note and provide any comment on the plans to change the existing partnership working arrangements of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board.

## **7.0 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.