

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 July 2022

Report Title	Expenses Policy Task and Finish Group – Scope of the Review
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Contributors/Checkers/Approvers		
MO	Paul Hanson on behalf of Catherine Whitehead	23 June 2022
S151	Martin Henry	23 June 2022

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Scope of Review – Expenses Policy Task and Finish Group

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned the Expenses Policy Task and Finish Group to undertake comprehensive scrutiny activity regarding the Council’s Expenses Policy.
- 1.2 This report therefore sets out the draft scope (terms of reference) for this Scrutiny Review as agreed by the Task and Finish Group for the consideration and approval of this Committee as set out at Appendix A.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Group confirmed Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s work programme that includes Expenses Policy and the setting up of a Task and Finish Group.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 15 November 2021, Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee set up the Expenses Policy Task and Finish Group and it was intended that the Group would commence its work in the spring 2022, when the Council’s new Expenses Policy had been approved. The

inaugural scoping meeting was held on 20 June 2022 and the draft scope is appended to this report for the Committee's consideration and approval.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that:

3.1.1 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers for approval the draft scope of the Expenses Policy Task and Finish Group as attached at Appendix A.

3.2 *Reason for Recommendations*

3.2.1 One of Overview and Scrutiny's key roles is to undertake focussed work programming in order that it is ensured that Scrutiny contributes actively to the Council's objectives.

3.2.2 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the parent Committee of the Expenses Policy Task and Finish Group and has the responsibility for approving the scope (terms of reference) for all Scrutiny reviews that it sets up.

4. Report Background

4.1 At its inaugural meeting on 20 June 2022, the Expenses Policy Task and Finish Group scoped its Review for consideration by this Committee.

4.2 The draft scope is attached at Appendix A for the Committee's consideration for approval. Once approved, the Task and Finish Group can embark upon its evidence gathering process, with production of its final report scheduled for September 2022. The Chair of the Task and Finish Group will present the report to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its approval. The report will then be presented to Cabinet for its consideration.

5. Issues and Choices

5.1 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider approving the draft scope (terms of reference) for the Treasury Management Task and Finish Group as set out at Appendix A.

5.2 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee can adopt an alternative scope (terms of reference) or decide not to proceed with this Scrutiny review.

5 Implications (including financial implications)

5.2 Resources and Financial

5.2.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

5.3 Legal

- 5.3.1 Overview and Scrutiny operates within the provisions as set out in the Local Government Act 2000, the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. It has specific powers relating to health services since 2001 and the crime and disorder since 2006.
- 5.3.2 Paragraph 7.1.3 of the constitution “The Overview and Scrutiny function will develop a work plan as well as supporting policy development, providing pre-decision scrutiny where appropriate, holding decision-makers to account and exercising the formal call-in of executive decisions to review any concerns about the making of the decision.”

5.4 Risk

- 5.4.1 Scrutiny is essential to good governance and enables the voice and concerns of residents and communities to be heard and provides challenge and accountability.

5.5 Consultation

- 5.5.1 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee confirmed its work programme, that includes a review of the Council’s Expenses Policy.
- 5.5.2 The Work Programme 2021/2022 was then approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Group.

5.6 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

- 5.6.1 Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 4 July 2022 will consider the draft scope of the Treasury Management Task and Finish Group.

5.7 Climate Impact

- 5.7.1 There are no immediate climate impact implications arising from the proposals.

5.8 Community Impact

- 5.8.1 Scrutiny work will need to assess the implications of any recommendations made, including equalities and community cohesion implications.

6 Background Papers

Agenda and Minutes of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 15 November 2021
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/2022
Minutes of the meeting of the Expenses Policy Task and Finish Group - 20 June 2022