

Effectiveness and Transparency of O&S Committee

(Report of the House of Commons Committee on Effectiveness of local authority overview and scrutiny committees December 2017)

At the O&S meeting of March 28th 2018 (SO/44) the Members were presented with an Executive Summary of the House of Commons Report and the main conclusions were referred to and discussed (an online reference was given for the full Report).

Overall Members “mainly accepted the recommendations” of the Parliamentary Report.

These recommendations included:

1. Scrutiny should play a predominant role in the decision making process (of the Council).
2. Scrutiny to Report to the full Council (not the Executive).
3. Parity of “esteem” between the Executive and the Scrutiny functions.
4. Role of Scrutiny Officer needs to be significantly strengthened.
5. Consider that Scrutiny has a democratic mandate to review any public service in their area.

(All the above recommendations are identified in the Executive Summary of the H of C Report December 2017).

Pending a full discussion on the above item, the Chairman of O&S is proposing that item N02 be approved and the Minutes/Reports of the O&S Committee be presented to Full Council from the Council Meeting of September 20th 2018.

Note: Agenda item 7 seeks to address recommendations 1 and 2 above.