



Report to Scrutiny

Item Number: 8

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information

No

Subject of Report:	Governance Arrangements in Local Authorities - An External Perspective
Meeting:	Scrutiny Review Panel 1 – 2013/2014: Governance 9 July 2013
Service Report Author:	Harjeet Bains Scrutiny Review Officer bainsh@ealing.gov.uk Tel: 020-8825 7120
Scrutiny Officer:	Harjeet Bains Scrutiny Review Officer bainsh@ealing.gov.uk Tel: 020-8825 7120
Cabinet Responsibility:	Councillor Julian Bell (Leader of the Council and Policy Overview Portfolio)
Director Responsibility:	Helen Harris Director of Legal and Democratic Services harrish@ealing.gov.uk Tel: 020-8825 8159
Brief:	To consider the useful background information provided by the Centre for Public Scrutiny
Recommendations:	On considering the presentation and the useful background information provided, the Panel is asked to decide whether to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- review any elements in detail at future meetings; and- invite relevant individuals from an appropriate local authority/another body to relate their experience at a future Panel meeting.

- 1. Governance Arrangements in Local Authorities – An External Perspective**
 - 1.1 At the request of the Chair (Cllr Anthony Young) and Vice Chair (Cllr Yoel Gordon), the Local Government Association has nominated Ed Hammond, Research and Information Manager, Centre for Public Scrutiny to provide an external perspective on the governance arrangements in local authorities.
 - 1.2 The following useful background publications are attached for the Panel's information:
 - Changing Governance Arrangements (Centre for Public Scrutiny – Policy Briefing 4, December 2010);
 - Musical Chairs (Centre for Public Scrutiny – Practical issues for local authorities in moving to a committee system) plus two Appendices:
 1. Showing the different governance options on a spectrum; and
 2. The case study authorities in detail available at www.cfps.org.uk/committee-system.
 - 1.3 The Panel is asked to consider the information and decide whether they wish to:
 - further review any elements therein; and
 - invite relevant individuals from an appropriate local authority/another body to relate their experience at a future Panel meeting.
- 2. Legal Implications**
 - 2.1 The general scrutiny functions and powers are set out in the Council Constitution.
- 3. Financial Implications**
 - 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Support to the Scrutiny Panel is contained within the allocated budget. Value for money will come from having appropriate agenda items on the Work Programme that will help the Panel to achieve the expected outcomes.
- 4. Other Implications**
 - 4.1 There are no other implications arising.
- 5. Background Papers**
 - 5.1 Ealing Council's Constitution, available at http://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/200892/decision_making/597/council_constitution

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Agendas, Minutes and Reports, available at http://www.ealing.gov.uk/meetings/committee/13/overview_and_scrutiny_committee

For information about Scrutiny in Ealing, including meeting dates and work programmes, go to:

http://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/200892/decision_making/344/scrutiny

Current agendas and reports are available at

<http://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Home.aspx>

Report Consultation

<i>Name of Consultee</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Date Sent to Consultee</i>	<i>Date Response Received from Consultee</i>	<i>Comments Appear in Report Para</i>
<i>Internal</i>				
Keith Fraser	Head of Scrutiny and Committees	12.06.13		
Helen Harris	Director of Legal and Democratic Services	12.06.13		
Jenny Jones	Head of Finance	12.06.13		
Cllr Anthony Young	Panel Chair	07.06.13		
Cllr Yoel Gordon	Panel Vice Chair	07.06.13		
<i>External</i>				
None				

Report History

<i>Decision Type:</i>		<i>Urgency item?</i>	
Non-key Decision		No	
<i>Authorised by Cabinet Member:</i>	<i>Date Report Drafted:</i>	<i>Report Deadline:</i>	<i>Date Report Sent:</i>
N/A	04.06.13	28.06.13	27.06.13
<i>Report No.:</i>	<i>Report Author and Contact for Queries:</i>		
	Harjeet Bains Scrutiny Review Officer Email: bainsh@ealing.gov.uk Tel: 020-8825 7120		