

**Committee and Date**

Item

**Council
14 May 2026**

Public



Scrutiny Reorganisation/Housing Supervisory Board

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Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	All		

1. Synopsis

This report proposes introducing a Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, ceasing the Housing Supervisory Board (whose executive functions will now be performed by Cabinet), and renaming the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be the Finance and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. The opportunity has been taken to review committees at the council to ensure that we are enabling a focus on the council's priorities. As part of this:

- a fifth Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) has been established – the Housing OSC where this committee can use the powers available to overview and scrutiny to look at this important topic and related topics. With the creation of this committee we will be ceasing the Housing Supervisory Board with its executive decision-making functions being undertaken by Cabinet.
- the Transformation and Improvement OSC will be renamed the Finance and Improvement OSC, which reflects the council's commitment to being financially sustainable where this committee will need to have a strong focus.

2.2. The terms of reference for these committees are being developed and reviewed accordingly.

3. Recommendations

3.1. That the Housing Supervisory Board be removed from the Constitution.

3.2. That the Scrutiny Committees and their terms of reference be approved as follows:

Committee Title	Outcomes that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for	Senior Officers (EDs & SDs)	Portfolio Holders
Finance and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Management and the delivery of the Financial Plan • Overall Council Performance (including financial, quality and activity) • Effectiveness and delivery of the Improvement Plan • Effectiveness and delivery of change at the Council <p>Priority Ambition(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Council that is financially sustainable, with clear priorities and purpose, and a workforce that is supported to excel 	<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Executive Director Section 151</p>	<p>Leader</p> <p>Finance</p> <p>Transformation and Economic Growth</p>
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's duty of health and wellbeing including needs assessments, strategies, prevention, commissioning • Planning and delivery of Health Services (HOSC) • Integrated Care System (including Council services) • Neighbourhood working <p>Priority Ambitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People live in safe, inclusive places with 	<p>Executive Director – Public Health (DPH)</p>	

Committee Title	Outcomes that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for	Senior Officers (EDs & SDs)	Portfolio Holders
	<p>homes that meet their needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone has the opportunity to be healthy and thrive at every stage of life • An environment that harnesses our natural assets and supports wellbeing <p>External focus: Health Trusts which are based in, impact on or provide services in the Shropshire Council Area Integrated Care System in the Shropshire Council Area</p>		
<p>Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC)</p>	<p>To scrutinise health issues that impact on the wider health system in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin</p>	<p>Executive Director – Public Health (DPH)</p>	<p>Adult Social Care and Public Health</p>
<p>Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing (including affordable and social housing and homelessness/temporary accommodation, housing register, housing allocations and HomePoint) • Cornovii • Shropshire Town and Rural Housing (STAR) • Planning Policy (Housing) inc. Local Plan and Place Plans • Planning Development Management • Developer Contributions (Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 agreements) 	<p>Executive Director – Communities Growth Partnerships</p> <p>Executive Director – Public Health (DPH)</p> <p>Service Director – Place Shaping</p>	<p>Housing Planning</p>

Committee Title	Outcomes that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for	Senior Officers (EDs & SDs)	Portfolio Holders
	Priority Ambitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People live in safe, inclusive places with homes that meet their needs 		
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Services for adults including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Care, • Safeguarding, • Special needs services, Services for children including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Care • Safeguarding • Special needs services • Schools and learning • Home to school transport (including SEND transport) • Youth Services Priority Ambition(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People live in safe, inclusive places with homes that meet their needs • Everyone has the opportunity to be healthy and thrive at every stage of life 	Executive Director - DASS Director of Children’s Services (DCS) Service Director – Care and Wellbeing (interim DASS)	Adult Social care and Public Health Children and Education Communities and Environment
Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Policy (Economy) inc. Local Plan • Planning Development Management (Highways) • Economic growth • Highways infrastructure and connectivity • Climate strategy and action plan • Environmental Management (Waste Management etc) 	Executive Director – Communities Growth Partnerships Service Director – Place Shaping	Communities and Environment Transformation and Economic Growth Planning Highways and Waste

Committee Title	Outcomes that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for	Senior Officers (EDs & SDs)	Portfolio Holders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety (required focus) • Culture and Leisure • Flooding and water management (required focus) • 16+ Education and learning and skills <p>Priority Ambition(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities are connected by well-maintained roads, accessible transport and infrastructure • An environment that harnesses our natural assets and supports wellbeing • A thriving economy that benefits everyone 		Transport and Regeneration

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. Effective Overview and Scrutiny is a feature of the Council's governance arrangements, where the Council is operating executive arrangements. There are a range of factors that could result in risks to Council of not doing Overview and Scrutiny effectively. These include the failure to
- challenge and hold decision makers to account.
 - link O&S work to the delivery of the council's priorities and risk management – failure to demonstrate added value
 - carry out thorough and appropriate research to make evidence-based recommendations
- 4.2. To mitigate, tolerate or eradicate these risks, enablers for effective scrutiny include:
- Operating in an apolitical manner.
 - Clarity of vision and purpose
 - Overview and Scrutiny support availability, capability and capacity
 - Effective engagement and commitment by Members and officers at all levels, including Cabinet, Opposition Leaders, Scrutiny Chairs and Senior Officers who play a central role in setting the tone and direction

- Robust work programming and prioritisation of topics with clear objectives and expected impacts
 - Ensuring that Overview and Scrutiny work will add value to the Council and communities e.g. through strong links between work programme topics and the integrated strategic plans that set out the actions and timescales to deliver the priorities in the Corporate Plan
 - Have robust well-defined terms of reference for all overview and scrutiny work, especially task and finish groups. This is equally relevant for task and finish groups that are commissioned by Cabinet and occasionally Council.
 - Access to and availability of robust data and intelligence
 - Good relationship with partners and providers
- 4.3. Overview and Scrutiny Committees have remits that cover the breadth of the work of the Council, as well as looking externally including Health Services and provision through Health Overview and Scrutiny requirements.
- 4.4. The proposed structure for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees provides the opportunity to put in place strong links to the priorities in the Corporate Plan to support an outcome focus to their work, as well as ensuring that, where required, the committees can be sighted on a directorate.
- 4.5. Topics for Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programmes are identified based on a number of different considerations which include an understanding of risks to the Council (e.g. failure to deliver the Corporate Plan), employees, to service users themselves, and to communities. These may be identified through reviewing performance information and comparing with others, changes to national and local policies, budget information, feedback from customers/service users, feedback from partners/providers, and reports from regulators.
- 4.6. Overview and scrutiny work provides the means for members who are not on Cabinet to contribute to decision making through policy review and development and through pre-decision scrutiny. Pre-decision scrutiny provides the mechanism for decision makers to invite and benefit from the knowledge and experience of Members to inform and strengthen the decision being taken.
- 4.7. During overview and scrutiny work evidence will be gathered that builds on this understanding to inform the development of conclusions and evidence-based recommendations.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. Effective overview and scrutiny will produce evidence-based recommendations. These can be informed by learning from best practice and an understanding of “what works” at other similar local authorities, as well as developing a robust picture of what the situation is locally based on data, intelligence and insights. Where adopted recommendations can help with the efficiency and effectiveness of services that can be delivered differently, as well as informing the development of current and new policies.
- 5.2. An additional Special Responsibility Allowance will be payable as a result of the creation of a new Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programmes directly link to the Corporate Plan priorities. In the draft Corporate Plan 2026-2030 the priority ambition 'An environment that harnesses our natural assets and supports wellbeing' includes responding to climate change and references activity that will contribute to the delivery of carbon reduction. Climate change and carbon reduction related issues are directly identified in the remit and therefore focus of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7. Background

- 7.1. The Housing Supervisory Board was created predominantly to exercise the Councils function as Shareholder of Cornovii.
- 7.2. Recent advice suggests that it may be more appropriate for an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to perform the Scrutiny function while Executive decisions are taken by the Cabinet.
- 7.3. Since May 2025, the Administration has examined the role and function of the current Overview and Scrutiny Committees and recognised a need for this to be adapted and updated.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1. The review reinforces the importance of all members being engaged in overview and scrutiny work, seeing and feeling the added value that is achieved and can be achieved. The success of overview and scrutiny will be heavily influenced by Member ownership and leadership.
- 8.2. Overview and Scrutiny Committees can add significant value for the organisation, the delivery of the priorities in the Corporate Plan and the aims of the Improvement Plan, and for Shropshire Communities.
- 8.3. They have a unique position being able to make evidence-based recommendations to inform decision making and look at the progress and impact of implementing decisions. This is particularly relevant at a time when the Council is working hard to ensure that it is making its resources go as far as possible. The committees and wider overview and scrutiny work is well placed to complement the Improvement Board and directly support the Council's improvement journey.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

None

Local Member: All

Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices]

None