

**Overview and Scrutiny Statutory Guidance - Presentation**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr D Thain
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 New statutory guidance for Overview and Scrutiny was published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in May 2019. This report sets out the key points arising from the new Overview and Scrutiny Guidance that differ from local practice in Redditch.
- 1.2 At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019 Members considered the statutory guidance. Whilst the Council was found to be compliant with the majority of points raised in the guidance, Members requested a presentation at the July meeting of the Committee in respect of the points in the guidance that differed from local practice. This report sets out those areas in further detail.
- 1.3 Members are invited to consider the guidance and to determine whether any changes to the current scrutiny procedures are necessary.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Members are asked to note the attached summary of the guidance and if appropriate make any necessary recommendations.**

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications in respect of this report

**Legal Implications**

- 3.2 This statutory guidance has been issued under Section 9Q of the Local Government Act 2000 and under paragraph 2 (9) of schedule 5A to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, which requires authorities to have regard to this Guidance.

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**4<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

- 3.3 The requirement to give due regard to the proposals means that the Council must demonstrate it has considered the guidance and where appropriate implemented changes at a local level.
- 3.4 The Guidance does recognise the need for flexibility to ensure that Overview and Scrutiny arrangements in place at a Council meet the needs of that local authority.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider a report in respect of the guidance as it has clear implications for the ways in which scrutiny operates at the Council.
- 3.6 It should be noted that many of the key principles of Overview and Scrutiny set out in the Guidance are already complied with in Redditch. However, there are a small number of proposals that do require further consideration as these are not currently in place.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.7 There are no customer/equalities and diversity implications in relation to this report.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

There is a risk that if the Overview and Scrutiny Committee does not consider this Guidance and whether to amend its practices in response, the Authority will not be demonstrating that it has given due regard to it.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Overview of Areas Diverging from Local Practice  
Appendix 2 – Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities.

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Government Review – Overview and Scrutiny guidance Report – considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

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