

Article 7 - Overview and Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny

- 7.1 The Combined Authority must appoint one or more overview and scrutiny committees. An overview and scrutiny committee may appoint one or more sub-committees to carry out any of its functions.
- 7.2 The Combined Authority's arrangements must ensure that the overview and scrutiny committee has power (or its overview and scrutiny committees have power between them) to:
- review or scrutinise any decision made or other action taken by the Combined Authority in connection with exercising any Non-Mayoral Function
 - make reports or recommendations to the Combined Authority with respect to exercising any Non-Mayoral Function
 - review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken by the Mayor in connection with exercising any Mayoral General Function
 - make reports or recommendations to the Mayor with respect to exercising any Mayoral General Function, and
 - make reports or recommendation to the Combined Authority or the Mayor on matters that affect the Combined Authority's Area or its inhabitants.

Call-in of Decisions

- 7.3 The power of an overview and scrutiny committee to review or scrutinise a decision made but not implemented includes power to call-in a decision; that is:
- direct that a decision is not to be implemented while it is under review or scrutiny by the overview and scrutiny committee, and
 - recommend that the decision be reconsidered.

Accountability Mechanisms

- 7.4 An overview and scrutiny committee or sub-committee may require the Mayor or any other Combined Authority Member or an officer of the Combined Authority to attend before it to answer questions.
- 7.5 An overview and scrutiny committee or sub-committee may require the Combined Authority or the Mayor to respond to any report or recommendation - see further Scrutiny Standing Orders in Part 4 of the Constitution.

Proceedings

- 7.6 An overview and scrutiny committee and any sub-committee will follow the Scrutiny Standing Orders in Part 4 of the Constitution.

Membership

- 7.7 The Combined Authority shall appoint six elected members of each Constituent Council to each overview and scrutiny committee.
- 7.8 The majority of members of any overview and scrutiny committee or subcommittee must be elected members of the Constituent Councils.
- 7.9 The number of members of each of the Constituent Councils appointed to any overview and scrutiny committee must be such that the members of the committee taken as a whole reflect, so far as reasonably practicable, the balance of political parties for the time being prevailing among members of the Constituent Councils when taken together.
- 7.10 The following persons may not be a member of an overview and scrutiny committee or sub-committee of the Combined Authority:
- the Mayor,
 - a Combined Authority Member, and
 - any member of the Executive of either of the Constituent Councils.
- 7.11 Within 28 days of any appointment to any overview and scrutiny committee, the Monitoring Officer will publish a notice about the appointment on the Combined Authority's website.

Voting

- 7.12 Each member of an overview and scrutiny committee, or of any overview and scrutiny sub-committee, appointed from a Constituent Council, has one vote.
- 7.13 Any member of an overview and scrutiny committee not from a Constituent Council is non-voting unless the Combined Authority has resolved unanimously to give such a member voting rights.
- 7.14 A simple majority of the members present and voting is required to determine any question, and no member has a casting vote. If a vote is tied it is deemed not to have been carried.

Chair

- 7.15 The Combined Authority will appoint the Chair of any overview and scrutiny committee.
- 7.16 The Chair must be:
- an independent person, or
 - an appropriate person who is a member of one of the Constituent Councils (that is, a person who is not a member of a registered political party of which the Mayor is a member).

Quorum

- 7.17 For business to be transacted at a meeting, two thirds of the total number of members of the committee or sub-committee must be present.

Scrutiny Officer

- 7.18 The Combined Authority must designate one of its officers as a Scrutiny Officer, to:

- promote the role of any Combined Authority overview and scrutiny,
- provide support and guidance to any overview and scrutiny committee and its members, and
- provide support and guidance to Combined Authority Members in relation to the functions of any overview and scrutiny committee.

- 7.19 The Combined Authority cannot designate as Scrutiny Officer any officer of a Constituent Council.