



**AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE
COMMITTEE**

**STATUTORY SCRUTINY
AN INTRODUCTORY GUIDE**

INTRODUCTION TO STATUTORY SCRUTINY

Under the new democratic arrangements in Hartlepool, the Council has a statutory responsibility to consider issues relating to:

- The **planning, provision and operation of health services**, as provided for by the Health and Social Care Act 2012; and
- Establish a Crime and Disorder Committee to **scrutinise and review the decisions / actions of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership**.

These scrutiny functions will be undertaken through the Council's Audit and Governance Committee, to help Councillors ensure that the Council and partner organisations are making the best decisions for the people of Hartlepool.

The Audit and Governance Committee:

- Will review and scrutinise health and crime and disorder issues.

The length of a review will be dependent upon the specific issue under consideration and this can vary from a few meetings to a more substantial review conducted over a period of several months.

- Can call council officers; representatives from NHS bodies and relevant health service providers; representatives from the Safer Hartlepool Partnership and other witnesses to answer questions and provide evidence about the issue being reviewed.
- Will collate as much evidence as possible surrounding the issue within the time available and formulate recommendations at the conclusion of a statutory scrutiny inquiry.
- Will agree a formal report, which will be considered by the appropriate body.

On the opposite page you can find a brief description of the statutory scrutiny functions that are the responsibility of the Audit and Governance Committee. The majority of Audit and Governance meetings are open to the public and we encourage public involvement.

THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE'S ROLE IN RELATION TO STATUTORY SCRUTINY

1

HEALTH – The Council has a responsibility to not only look at themselves through its Public Health and policy development activities, but also at all health service providers and any other factors that affect people's health. The role of the Audit and Governance Committee is to review, scrutinise and make reports and recommendations about possible improvements in services in the following areas:

- (a) health issues identified by, or of concern to, the local population;
- (b) proposed substantial development or variation in the provision of health services in the local authority area;
- (c) the impact of interventions on the health of local people;
- (d) an overview of delivery against key national and local targets, particularly those which improve the public's health;
- (e) the development of integrated strategies for health improvement; and
- (f) the accessibility of services that impact on the health of local people to all parts of the local community.

2

CRIME AND DISORDER – The role of the Audit and Governance Committee in relation to Crime and Disorder is to:-

- (a) review and scrutinise decisions made or other action taken by the Safer Hartlepool Partnership, with the key areas for review or scrutiny being:
 - Policy development – including in-depth reviews;
 - Contribution to the development of strategies;
 - Holding to account; and
 - Performance management.
- (b) Consider Councillor Call's for Action in response to any local crime and disorder issues.

STATUTORY SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Audit and Governance Committee will set the statutory scrutiny work programme at the beginning of each Municipal Year. If there is a topic or service relating to health or crime and disorder that you feel should be scrutinised, please let us know by completing the enclosed form.

HOW TO CONTACT US

For further information

On our yearly Statutory Scrutiny Work Programme, dates of meetings and recently published reports visit the Council's web site or contact our Support Team.

Tel: 01429 28 4142

Email: scrutiny@hartlepool.gov.uk

www.hartlepool.gov.uk/scrutiny

This document is available on request in alternative formats (e.g. large type / Braille / on tape). We can also arrange versions in other languages. If you would like an alternative version please contact us.