

Motion to Introduce Overview and Scrutiny Committee to Swale Council.

The Council notes that though under the current committee structure there is no requirement to have an Overview and scrutiny committee¹ a number of Councils with Committee structures do have such systems and use them very effectively.

That introducing a scrutiny committee would:

- Open up a call in process for all Councillors who might be concerned about decisions and their impacts on residents.
- Offer an additional avenue to assess in detail policies that merit it.
- Offer a chance to focus on outcomes and policy monitoring which can often be de-prioritised by service committees.²
- Allow for more open and in-depth questioning of Officers and lead members with greater room for supplementary questions and deeper dives.
- Increase transparency about decision making at Swale.
- Increase the breadth of councillor involvement in key decisions.
- Streamline Committees allowing for more efficient agendas and meetings.

This Council therefore calls for the Introduction of an Overview and Scrutiny committee to be set up at the earliest possible opportunity which will be politically balanced but must be chaired by a Cllr who is not a member of the informal administration.

Proposed – Cllr Charles Gibson

Seconded – Cllr Hannah Perkin

1. [Local Government Act 2000 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk) [A plain English guide to the Localism Bill - Update \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
2. <https://www.cfgs.org.uk/long-read-scrutiny-in-committee-system-authorities/>
3. [Overview and scrutiny: statutory guidance for councils and combined authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)