

## **7. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

Scrutiny is a key democratic mechanism for holding public-service decision-makers and providers to account and facilitating the improvement of public services on the Isle of Wight. Effective scrutiny enhances accountability, ensures transparency of decision-making, contributes to service improvement and acts as a 'check and balance' on decision-makers.

Working with members of the public and professionals, Scrutiny councillors undertake the following roles:

- (a) monitor, question and investigate the performance of the Cabinet, individual decision-makers and council services
- (b) develop, review and make recommendations for the improvement of services and activities commissioned by the council
- (c) publicly hold to account Cabinet members and staff making decisions
- (d) contribute to the development of budget and policies
- (e) discharge specific Scrutiny functions in relation to health, flooding and crime and disorder
- (f) scrutinise other public service providers' work and its impact on the local community

Scrutiny should be carried out in a proactive and constructive way and contribute to the delivery of efficient and effective services that meet the needs and aspirations of local inhabitants, visitors and businesses.

The council has established a suite of Scrutiny committees. The Scrutiny committees may in turn, with the agreement of the Chief Executive on scope, timing and resources, establish Task and Finish Groups (provided resources are available) to undertake specific work (see Part 3 Section 9).