



**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Executive Director - Resources**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Report to: | <b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Board</b>  |
| Date:      | <b>30 May 2019</b>   |
| Subject:   | <b>Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities</b> |

**Summary:**

This report advises the Board of the recent publication, by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, of the latest Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny and seeks approval to set up a working group to consider the document.

**Actions Required:**

The Board is invited to set up a cross party working group to consider the latest Statutory Guidance and receive a report on any recommended changes to the way the Council carries out its overview and scrutiny functions.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 On 7 May 2019 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published statutory guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities.
- 1.2 The guidance seeks to ensure councils are aware of the purpose of scrutiny, highlight what good scrutiny looks like and the benefits it can bring.
- 1.3 It follows the publication of a report on Overview and Scrutiny by the House of Commons Select Committee in December 2017.
- 1.4 It is the first general Government guidance on scrutiny since 2006 and provides an opportunity for the Council to review its scrutiny practices.
- 1.5 Group Leaders considered the publication of the guidance at their meeting on 8 May and agreed that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board should be invited to set up a cross party working group to review the document.

- 1.6 In view of the size of the document it has not be attached as an appendix to this report, but can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overview-and-scrutiny-statutory-guidance-for-councils-and-combined-authorities>

## **2. Conclusion**

- 2.1 New Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny has been published by the Government and provides an opportunity for the Council to cast a critical eye over its scrutiny function. It is therefore recommended that a working group be set up to look at the guidance in more detail.

## **3. Consultation**

### **a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out??**

No

### **b) Risks and Impact Analysis**

N/A

This report was written by Nigel West, who can be contacted on 01522 552840 or [nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk).