EASTBOURNE
Borough Council

What powers does the Scrutiny Committee have?

The Scrutiny Committee's powers stem from the Local Government Act 2000 and are established in the Council's Constitution. In summary, within its terms of reference, the Scrutiny Committee has power to:

- review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
- make reports and recommendations with regard to the discharge of any of those functions, to the full Council, its Committees or Sub-committees, the Cabinet or any Council Officers, as considered appropriate;
- consider any matter affecting the Borough or its residents; and
- recommend that any decision in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the Cabinet that has been made but not implemented be reconsidered by the person or body who made it (the so-called "call-in" power).

In carrying out its role, the Scrutiny Committee may:

- require Cabinet Members and officers of the authority to attend before it to answer questions
- invite other persons to attend meetings of the committee
- refer matters to the standing scrutiny task groups for investigation and consideration
- appoint ad hoc scrutiny task groups
- co-opt persons who are not elected members

Committee and Task Group membership

The members and Chair of Scrutiny Committee are appointed annually by the full Council. The Scrutiny Committee may set-up ad hoc scrutiny task groups of two elected members on a task and finish basis to undertake specific assignments should the need arise. The members of such task groups are appointed by the Scrutiny Committee drawn from its own membership. The minimum number of elected members who can meet and take decisions is two (a quorum).

Scrutiny task group status

The task groups provide an essential support role to the Scrutiny Committee, which is the sponsor of issues task groups scrutinise. The task groups act in an advisory capacity, reporting to the Scrutiny Committee on their findings. As with the Scrutiny Committee they do not have any executive decision making powers.