

**From Councillor Mike Peers, Leader of the Independent Alliance  
(Emphasising that these are his personal views)**

1. Overview & Scrutiny must have the capacity to cover all of our internal services and external challenges.

**AGREED.**

2. Overview & Scrutiny must have the capacity, ability and enthusiasm to take a full and active part in our Improvement agenda.

**AGREED.**

3. We must ensure efficiency of attendance from Cabinet and Chief Officer Team (COT) members.

**AGREED. This is fundamental in order for the Overview & Scrutiny to bring to account the decision makers and those empowered to bring about change.**

4. All of the committees should have broadly similar workloads.

**Not necessarily. A robust forward work programme will drive the workload.**

5. Overview & Scrutiny must have a clearly defined and valued role in corporate governance and improvement.

**AGREED.**

6. Overview & Scrutiny must have the ability and capacity to provide well evidenced solutions to recognised problems.

**AGREED. Officer support to committees is crucial in order to bring about evidenced solutions, but also in a timely manner.**

7. Overview & Scrutiny must have been Member led, whilst taking into account the needs of the organisation and the views of the public, our partners and our regulators.

**AGREED.**

8. Overview & Scrutiny must have be credible to all our Members, our public, partners and regulators.

**AGREED.**

9. Overview & Scrutiny must have be able to balance small pictures - detailed scrutiny - with big pictures -more imaginative overview.

**Not sure what the question is asking but a balanced view of all information received is required.**

10. Overview & Scrutiny must have flexibility, durability and appetite for change.

**I agree with flexibility and durability, but it's not so much an appetite for change but the recognition that change is required for a reason.**

11. Should the O&S structure focus be the Council's Improvement priorities or the operating model - the Chief Officer structure?

**In my view, both.**

12. Is six committees of fifteen Members the right number or should this be reduced or increased?

**I don't have a strong view on this, but it must be politically balanced. I am content for the Constitution committee to review the current position.**

13. What will the officers need to support change and help them to active it?

**Time ,commitment, and the desire.**

14. What does the public need to comment on/influence change through consultation on policy and service reviews.

**Access to Overview and Scrutiny forward work programmes, and perhaps access to an Overview & Scrutiny "Champion" for all things O & S.**

## **From Councillor Ron Hampson, Chair of Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

In reply to your circular requesting views on a future structure for Overview and Scrutiny after the departmental structure change, I feel we should retain the six Committees, Corporate Resources, Lifelong Learning, Social Services, Housing, Environment, with possibly a change to Community Profile to give it a bigger role in keeping with the departmental changes. I believe we should carry on bringing Outside Bodies in, which is useful, but add some more specific subjects.

In line with the departmental structure change, there are a number of options to go with each main heading but I feel Economic Development should go with Housing and obviously Leisure with Lifelong Learning; I feel the new system should be structured in a way that Officers' attend the least amount of Committees that would allow them to deal with their portfolio.

I agree with most of the statement on your list of main requirements for Overview and Scrutiny but these are my views on the following points:

11. I feel that Overview and Scrutiny structure should focus mainly on the council's improvement priorities while keeping in line with Chief Officer's structure change as much as possible.

12. I feel a Committee of fifteen is the right number.

13. The Officers' will need the Committee to be suggesting new ideas to help them in un-chartered territory as well as intense and constructing scrutiny.

14. During the last Housing meeting we brought a member of the public before the Committee because he felt strongly about a subject and had pursued it diligently. I would suggest this might be a good idea for other Committees occasionally when somebody has strong views on a particular subject.

## **From Councillor Clive Carver, Leader of the Conservative Group**

I certainly agree the statements 1 to 10.

In general I see no need to change anything in O&S in the near future, certainly not whilst the new operating model is bedding in.

What I would like to see though, in parallel with any proposals to change O&S based on questions 11 to 14, is more of an alignment of Cabinet portfolios with the new operating model.

**From Councillor Carol Ellis, Chair of Social & Healthcare O&SC**

Think the current model works quite well. I would not like to see Social and Health Overview joined with any other Committee as most issues scrutinised are regulated as you know. I do think more input from the public would be of benefit, contributing but not voting.

**From Councillor Hilary Isherwood, Chair of Environment O&SC**

1) I feel this action may be somewhat jumping the gun. If we are to merge with Wrexham, we would need to make sure our structure of Directorates and thus Scrutinies were in line with each other.

2) I feel we could do with co-opting more members of the public. A perfect example to this would be Council Tenants, re Housing Scrutiny?.

3) With the Cabinet system, we really need to make sure the vast majority of the Council have a real voice. Although you have asked Group leaders and Chairs and Vice Chairs, this really is one for the whole Council.

**From Councillor Brian Dunn, Chair of Community Profile & Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee (telephone message)**

I am happy with the design principles which you have identified.