

Feedback from Scrutiny Away Day – 16th March 2019



Our experience 1



- Limited engagement of wider group of non executive councillors
- Overloaded agendas with limited time to probe, drill deeply as a consequence
- Format of meetings and current process not scrutiny friendly
- Pressure from officers to accept items – okay to say ‘no’
- Sub committees not meeting as frequently as they should
- Breadth not depth - time to question serious issues
- Poor connection between OSC and sub committees

Our experience 2



- Lack of clarity on role and involvement on non education issues
- Not looking at wider risk issues, areas
- Lack of focus at times
- Officers (non scrutiny) rewriting, influencing call-in recommendations
- Officer (non scrutiny) control
- Too internally focused
- Minutes at times don't reflect what was discussed and agreed

What we want to change



- Fit for purpose OSC structure which reflects organisational and residents priorities
- Reduce numbers of councillors on OSC to 9
- Revised scrutiny lead portfolio areas
- Revised scrutiny structure

Proposed Scrutiny Leads Portfolio



Proposed Scrutiny Structure



Sub-Committees

- 6 meetings each year

Scrutiny Leads

- Time limited task and finish groups
- Challenge Sessions
- Spotlights
- Visits



What we want to change 2



- Be clear about *intent* and *impact*
- Work on individual and team behaviours to develop scrutiny culture
- Improve communication between OSC and sub committees
- Increase frequency of sub committee meetings – bi-monthly
- Find ways to engage other non executive cllrs e.g. deputy councillors
- Smarter pre meeting focus to ensure successful meetings
- Improve questioning techniques and style – themes, KLEs, share workload, room and space
- Work programmes to focus on key corporate issues – less is more
- Ensure minutes accurately reflect challenging and sensitive discussions
- Ensure non scrutiny officers don't change recommendations, especially call-in recommendations

Key Actions



- X2 work programming sessions (stakeholders and Members)
- Communication and Engagement Plan
- Scrutiny Development Programme
- Outcome focused
- Pre-meetings and meetings management

Next Steps



- Stakeholder engagement
- Council AGM
- Revised ToR
- Constitution Review- Scrutiny
- Delivery of key actions

Questions and Comments

