

Scrutiny Survey Feedback 2019-20

21 September 2020



Overview

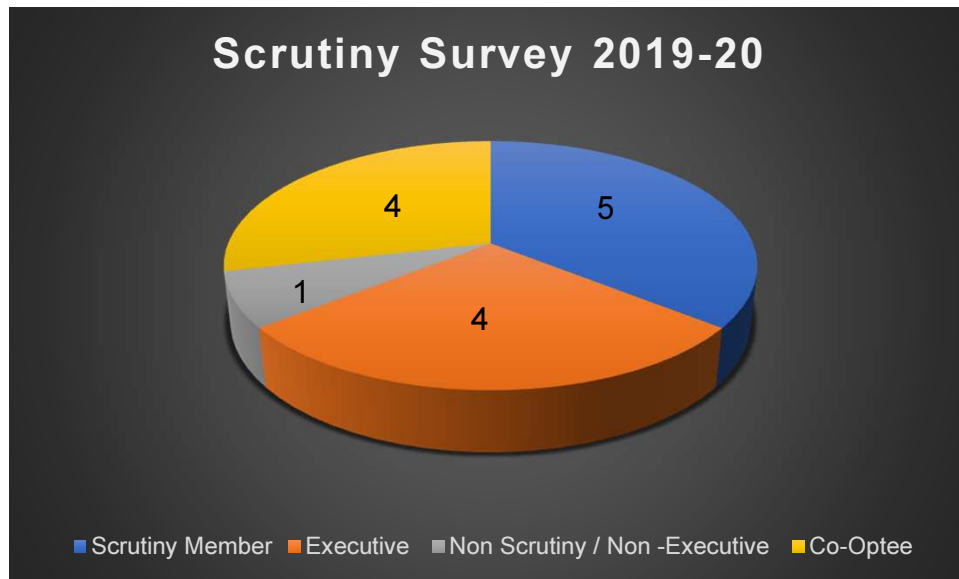


- Scrutiny survey opened from 24.08.2020 until 18.09.2020 to all Members (including scrutiny, executive, non-executive and Co-optees).
- The survey asked seven questions
- To obtain feedback from Members and Co-optees on how scrutiny performed / contributed as a function in 2019-20.
- Use the feedback to consider how scrutiny function can improve and develop it's role for 2020-21.



Overview Continued

- Number of participants breakdown:



What do you think worked well for OSC?



- Scrutiny response to Covid 19
- Resident engagement
- Online meetings
- Scrutiny structure and its agendas *“allowed for deeper engagement with the topics at each meeting. Pre-decision scrutiny was effective”*
- Holding council to account
- Improvements in examining main areas of risk *“Need to do less better”*



What do you think didn't go well for OSC?



- Volume of Spotlight focus on other Council areas (policy making)
- Scrutiny role as a critical friend, its visibility and contribution to development strategic policies, scrutiny of key partner failed to improve performance e.g. Housing
- Covid Impact on No of Scrutiny meetings *"5 month plus gap in meeting of children education committee is not acceptable"*
- Scrutiny's focus, level of evidence and depth of questioning *"Too much focus on performance measures rather than bigger picture issues. Doesn't link to risk or priorities"*
- Cabinet response the same, change has either been too slow or no real change



Where do you think OSC needs to improve?



- Scrutiny Long-term focus
- OSC and its relationship with the Sub-Committees
- Better visibility and publicity of Scrutiny and its Work Programme *“It is not clear how the agenda items/subjects for discussion are chosen”*
- Opportunities for the community to feed into the work programme
- Six monthly reviews of scrutiny *“enable in-year improvements”*
- Deep-dives and effective questioning *“questions are still at a local interest level and not probing enough”*
- *“Sometimes the issues are broad, and we need to do a deeper dive into a specific area and if times allow next year it would good to try and make space for this”*
- Relationship between Members and officers.



What do you think OSC could do differently in 2020-21?



- More Spotlight sessions.
- Opportunities for young people to feed into Committee.
- Promote scrutiny meeting in the community *“Council comms could do more to promote the role of scrutiny”*.
- More early engagement in policy development.
- Do less but in more depth with better questioning *“More in-depth scrutiny of critical areas”*.



What do you think has been the biggest obstacle for OSC?



- Members' proactiveness
- Policy development. *"We have the decision planner, but I don't think we have a way of knowing which policies are coming up for consideration beyond that".*
- Getting reports back from cabinet on time



Do you have any suggestions for the Scrutiny Work Programme?



- Housing Options *“impact of new government planning rules on LBTH, impact of changing demography”*
- Council budget and finance monitoring *“Delivery of savings programme, economy post Brexit post Covid, impact”*
- Young peoples’ education *“look at how to catch up on the lost 6 months for most pupils during the lockdown”*
- Environment *“Net Zero Carbon ambition, climate change”*
- Progress against Mayor's manifesto
- Small business support and community engagement

