

What does good scrutiny look like?

| For Officers | For Members | For Middlesbrough |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity on the role and purpose of scrutiny within the council’s overall governance framework, and how it aligns with council decision-making. • Proactive approaches being taken by the leadership to draw scrutiny into discussions on the development of policy. • An understanding that scrutiny’s sense of what’s important may diverge from the executive’s. • Support for the scrutiny function and a recognition of the value it can add to overall council governance • Developing greater expertise and insight, i.e. on the more technical aspects of finance, commercial activities and transformation. • Changing the way that information is provided to members for oversight, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear terms of reference that are reviewed regularly including during topic selection to ensure appropriateness of topic and outcomes aims • Scrutiny chairs selected – or elected, by other councillors - on the basis of ability to lead committees in an impartial way, and supported with coaching and mentoring to build confidence and experience. • A role description prepared for the chairing and committee member roles to provide clarity around expectations and responsibilities. • Focussed topic selection - This could include selection criteria to identify appropriate topics for the work programme. • An emphasis on finding strong recommendations from questioning to present to executive members (or partners). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear outcomes and recommendations that make a positive impact • Visibility of the work being carried out by scrutiny and seeing the importance of independent challenge • Having an input into topic selection • Publishing an annual scrutiny report, shared at full council, to outline scrutiny’s focus and impact over the past year. • |

[Type here]

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>cutting back on the number of items coming to scrutiny solely for information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An annual process for developing work programmes for each scrutiny committee, engaging members, officers, partners and the public to prioritise the topics for review.• Being flexible with work programming and understanding that it is developed on an ongoing basis. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have outcomes-focused meetings through preparation.• Clear recommendations and outcomes that are measurable• The use of task and finish sub groups to carry out specific pieces of work where appropriate• Publishing an annual scrutiny report, shared at full council, to outline scrutiny’s focus and impact over the past year.• Scrutiny and the executive working collaboratively – recognising the importance of independent challenge• Upholding respectful behaviour between members and between members and officers even in the context of robust challenge, having regard to Codes of Conduct and the Seven Principles of Public Life.• Scrutiny development and training for all committee members to develop a common understanding of what “good” scrutiny practice looks like. | |
|---|--|--|