

Governance Working Group

Two examples of good practice for
Governance and Scrutiny function

27 February 2020

Tewkesbury: Governance example

38 Councillors: Conservative: 23, Liberal Democrat: 8, Brockworth First: 4, Tewkesbury and Twyning Independents: 2, Green: 1

Committee structure with an Executive Committee - 11 Members on Executive, politically balanced.

- Conservative: 7; Lib Dem: 2; Brockworth First: 1; Tewkesbury and Twyning Indep: 1; Green: 0

Leader is Chair, Deputy Leader is Vice-Chair.

9 Lead Members (Executive Members) and Support Lead Member (formerly Shadow Lead Member). Only Lead Members receive SRA.

In place since Nov 2007, reviewed in 2009

Tewkesbury (continued)

No individual decision making powers for Leader or any member of Executive

Powers delegated to the Executive Committee.

Public Participation scheme - gives members of the public the opportunity to tell council members, at a Council meeting or Executive Committee meeting, about things of concern to them. This can be either a petition, a question, a statement or a deputation to either the Executive Committee or Council.

Would members like us to follow up later in the year and arrange a visit and briefing?

Devon County Council: Scrutiny Function

O&S function carried out by three service committees of major importance to the Council:

- Corporate Infrastructure and Regulatory Services;
- Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee;
- Children's Scrutiny Committee.

Each meets five times per year.

Not just Committee work, work plan takes input from several sources.

Suggested items scored for urgency prior to addition to work plan.

Devon County Council

In addition to the main public meeting, Devon also uses the following:

Different styles of scrutiny:

- **Scrutiny Task Groups** – in depth review over a number of meetings, and report back to Committee.
- **Spotlight review** – short focussed investigation in one meeting, report back to Committee.

Training and Member Development, specific to Scrutiny topics:

- **Standing Overview Group** – for Committee Members only. Informal information sharing and member development. Action points then reported to main O&S meeting. Held bi-monthly.
- **Masterclass** – open to all Members – information sharing and member development, no formal minutes taken. Held the morning before each committee meeting.

Devon County Council

SCRUTINY IMPACT

Scrutiny continues to act on problem gambling, raising awareness:

- ⇒ lobbying ministers,
- ⇒ Being on local TV
- ⇒ Inspiring other Councils

The Carers task group have spoken to more than 121 unpaid carers across Devon



Recommendations to follow.....

Scrutiny helped SWASFT identify some of the 5,000 Defibrillators in Communities potentially saving lives!



All 13 recommendations in the Scrutiny budget process – were agreed by Cabinet



40 Speed Limits Task Group realigned the Council's approach to speed.
30 + piloted two 20mph zones



Scrutiny looked at proposed changes to foster carer fees and allowances (which would see a reduction in allowances for some carers)

Scrutiny said that income protection should be guaranteed for foster carers until all current placements come to an end.

Cabinet agreed additional £1.2m funding

Impact – Better placement stability for children living with foster carers



The evidence and recommendations from the Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) task group helped secure over £1m additional investment in the service.

