

How Does Overview and Scrutiny work?

- Scrutiny Committees agree Work Programmes and prioritise their Reviews and other issues such as performance and budgets that they will consider;
- Each Review is considered and scoped in turn;
- Time is spent gathering information, consulting widely and comparing performance;
- Scrutiny questions how decisions have been made and considers suggestions or recommendations for improvement based on the evidence gathered;
- Non Cabinet Members can champion issues of local concern to residents and take part in developing new policy; sometimes a member of the public can be asked to sit on a Review Panel;
- Overview and Scrutiny Committees can choose to discuss Cabinet decisions before they are implemented and suggest a different approach or re-think;
- The Cabinet must consider any suggestions or recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committees;
- All meetings of a review are usually open to the public if they wish to attend; and
- Overview and Scrutiny Committees check afterwards to see if their actions have been put into practice.

Have your say

Overview and Scrutiny Committees welcome your views on which aspects of Council business warrants review. Your suggestions will be considered on the criteria below. Your suggestion must:

- Affect a group of people living in the Wirral area;
- Relate to a Service, event or issue in which the Council has a significant stake or over which the Council has an influence;
- Not be an issue which an Overview and Scrutiny Committee has considered during the last 12 months;
- Not relate to an individual service complaint; and
- Not relate to matters dealt with by another Council Committee unless the issues deals with procedure.

Please state what Councillors should scrutinise and why:

Your Name:

Address:

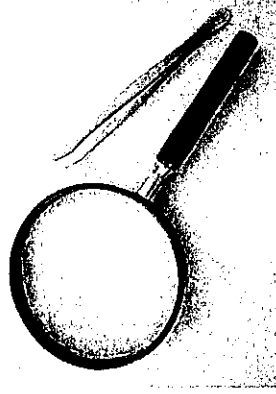
Return to the Scrutiny Team at the address shown or via email to shirleyhudspeth@wirral.gov.uk



Shaping your Community

Overview & Scrutiny

A Guide for Wirral Residents



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What is Scrutiny?

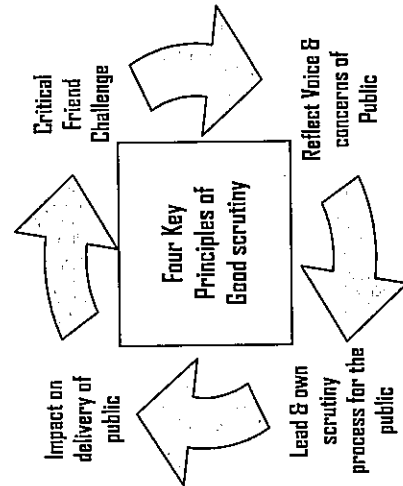
Scrutiny is part of the Council's democratic structure that is led by the 56 Councillors who are not part of the Cabinet.

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny function is a mechanism that enables Cabinet's key decisions to be examined and reviewed. This ensures decisions that are made are robust and in accordance with the Council's Policy, Procedures and relevant legislation.

Scrutiny Councillors try to involve local people to make sure the Council provides high quality services for the local community that are relevant to their needs.

They do this work through a Scrutiny Programme Board and five Overview and Scrutiny Committees usually held in public:

- Children & Young People
- Council Excellence
- Economy & Regeneration
- Health and Wellbeing
- Sustainable Committees



The focus of Overview and Scrutiny is essentially fourfold:

Firstly, it is responsible for holding the Cabinet to account for its decisions in its leadership of the Council.

Secondly, Overview and Scrutiny may decide to consider existing Council Policy or Services to evaluate their effectiveness.

Thirdly, Overview and Scrutiny has an important role to play in Performance Management of the systems of the Council; and

Finally:, Overview and Scrutiny can engage in external scrutiny and can examine any topic which affects the local area.

Work Programmes

Each Scrutiny Committee agrees its own work programme and details those areas to be reviewed during the coming year.

Reviews and Consultation

During a scrutiny review, Councillors consult a wide variety of people such as stakeholders, service users, academics, businesses, other Councils and the public. They ask these expert witnesses how best to make any improvements needed.

On the basis of the information and evidence gathered, they then draw up recommendations for improvement.

Sources of information

Reviews usually receive and consider evidence from expert witnesses who can shape the outcome. Witnesses can come from the Police, Fire, Health Services or from Local groups such as Age Concern or the Local Involvement Networks (LINKs), Local Government Agencies or from local people.

Public involvement

Members of the public have a right to attend Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings and can access the agenda and reports for meetings (unless there is exempt and private information in them) on the internet or by contacting Wallasey Town Hall.

The views and opinions of the public may also be requested in a variety of other ways such as co-opting onto a Committee, interviews, surveys or public meetings.

In order to assist them to make an informed decision about policies and recommendations, it can be useful for Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members to meet with members of the public who are involved in the areas being scrutinised.

