

There were 29 responses from Members to Scrutiny self-evaluation survey. Each statement had 5 response options and detailed below are the number of responses per option alongside the percentage in brackets.

Scrutiny Environment					
1. Scrutiny has a clearly defined role in the council's improvement arrangements.					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
1 (3.44%)	3 (10.34%)	11 (37.93%)	13 (44.82%)	1 (3.44%)	0
2. Scrutiny has a valued role in the council's improvement arrangements.					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
1 (3.44%)	3 (10.34%)	10 (34.48%)	14 (48.27%)	1(3.44%)	0
3. Scrutiny has the dedicated officer support it needs from officers.					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
1 (3.44%)	4 (13.79%)	13 (44.82%)	11 (37.93%)	0	0
4. Scrutiny members have the training and development opportunities they need to undertake their role effectively..					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
1 (3.44%)	2 (6.89%)	18 (62.06%)	8 (27.58%)	0	0
5. Scrutiny is recognised by the Executive and Corporate Management team as an important council mechanism for community engagement.					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
1 (3.44%)	4 (13.79%)	12 (41.37%)	9 (31.03%)	2 (6.89%)	1(3.44%)
Comments:					
<p>'I feel we need another scrutiny officer so we can do more task and finish'</p> <p>'Councillors are not elected to be scrutineers or part of a mechanism for 'community engagement'. They are elected to be decision makers at Council and its Committees. In my view the Cabinet and CMT system does not work for the Council, its employees or the public.'</p>					

Scrutiny Practice					
6. Scrutiny inquiries (Task & Finish Group) are non-political.					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
2 (6.89%)	5 (17.24%)	14 (48.27%)	6 (20.68%)	2 (6.89%)	0
7. Scrutiny inquiries (Task & Finish Group) are methodologically sound					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
1 (3.44%)	3 (10.34%)	17 (58.62%)	6 (20.68%)	2 (6.89%)	0
8. Scrutiny inquiries (Task & Finish Group) incorporate a wide range of evidence and perspectives.					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
1 (3.44%)	3 (10.34%)	13 (44.82%)	9 (31.03%)	2 (6.89%)	1 (3.44%)
7. Scrutiny is member-led and has `ownership` of its work programme					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
1 (3.44%)	3 (10.34%)	13 (44.82%)	11 (37.93%)	1 (3.44%)	0
8. Scrutiny takes into account the views of the public, partners and regulators, whilst balancing between prioritising community concerns against issues of strategic risk and importance.					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
0	6 (20.68%)	8 (27.58%)	12 (41.37%)	3 (10.34%)	0
9. Stakeholders have the ability to contribute to the development and delivery of scrutiny forward work programmes.					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
0	2 (6.89%)	15 (51.72%)	8 (27.58%)	4 (13.79%)	0
10. Overview and scrutiny meetings and activities are well-planned					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
0	3 (10.34%)	15 (51.72%)	10 (34.48%)	1 (3.44%)	0
11. Overview and scrutiny meetings and activities are chaired effectively					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
3 (10.34%)	3 (10.34%)	16 (51.72%)	6 (20.68%)	1 (3.44%)	0
12. Overview and scrutiny meetings and activities make best use of the resources available to it.					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
1(3.44%)	1(3.44%)	19 (65.51%)	7 (24.13%)	1 (3.44%)	0
13. Scrutiny is characterised by effective communication to raise awareness of, and encourage participation in democratic accountability.					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
0	4 (13.79%)	15 (51.72%)	7 (24.13%)	2 (6.89%)	1 (3.44%)

14. Scrutiny operates non-politically					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
3 (10.34%)	11 (37.93%)	7 (24.13%)	6 (20.68%)	2 (6.89%)	0
15. Scrutiny deals effectively with sensitive political issues, tension and conflict					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
2 (6.89%)	3 (10.34%)	15 (51.72%)	7 (24.13%)	1(3.44%)	0
16. Scrutiny builds trust and good relationships with a wide variety of internal stakeholders.					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
0	5 (17.24%)	14 (48.27%)	8 (27.58%)	2 (6.89%)	0
17. Scrutiny builds trust and good relationships with a wide variety of external stakeholders.					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
0	7 (24.13%)	13 (44.82%)	7 (24.13%)	2 (6.89%)	0
Comments:					
'It still seems hard to get general public to engage in the scrutiny process.'					
'With apparently over 500 services and 9600 staff, with an overall budget of £600million, Councillors are in the dark as the work undertaken in the 'back offices' of the council, Cabinet Members seem not to be in charge of their portfolios. Scrutiny should meet in the daytime, take longer if necessary, should involve much more of the public and less reports and, more practical visits to see for themselves the work that is done.'					

Impact of Scrutiny					
17. Scrutiny regularly engages in evidence based challenge of decision makers.					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
1(3.44%)	4(13.79%)	15(51.72%)	7(24.13%)	1(3.44%)	1(3.44%)
18. Scrutiny regularly engages in evidence based challenge of service providers					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
0	5 (17.24%)	14 (48.27%)	7 (24.13%)	2 (6.89%)	1 (3.44%)
19. Scrutiny provides viable and well evidenced solutions to recognised problems.					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
1 (3.44%)	5 (17.24%)	12 (41.37%)	8 (27.58%)	2 (6.89%)	1 (3.44%)
15. Non-executive members provide an evidence based check and balance to Executive decision making.					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
2 (6.89%)	4 (13.79%)	15 (51.72%)	6 (20.68%)	1 (3.44%)	1 (3.44%)

16. Decision makers give public account for themselves at scrutiny committees for their portfolio responsibilities.					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
3 (10.34%)	5 (17.24%)	10 (34.48%)	9 (31.03%)	1 (3.44%)	1 (3.44%)
17. Overview and scrutiny enables the 'voice' of local people and communities across the area to be heard as part of decision and policy-making processes.					
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know	No response
2 (6.89%)	5 (17.24%)	14 (48.27%)	6 (20.68%)	1 (3.44%)	1 (3.44%)
Comments:					
<p>'Really difficult to get people involved'</p> <p>'One cannot blame the staff it is the system that is at fault'</p> <p>'Because we have pre-decision scrutiny it does not always affect cabinet decisions but cabinet always takes the views of scrutiny on board.'</p>					