

What Scrutiny means for Blackburn it Darwen 2015-2016

What is Scrutiny

- Overview and scrutiny is a way in which Councillors (none Exec) hold the Executive, Officers and external organisations to account for the decisions that they make.
- The scrutiny process enables Councillors to examine the functions of the Council, question how decisions have been made, investigate issues of local concern, consider whether service improvements can be put in place and make recommendations to this effect.

Role of Scrutiny

- Holding Executive Board, individual Executive Members and Chief Officers to account and ensuring corporate priorities are met,
- Policy development and review,
- External Scrutiny,
- Performance management,
- Engaging the public, press and partner organisations

Scrutiny 2015 Onwards

- Pre-decision Scrutiny.
- Performance Management.
- Embedding an Understanding of the Council's Risk
- Support the Executive Member – Critical Friend and Cross party advice.
- Scrutiny is none political – enable Members to ensure the Corporate Plan is Delivered – Everybody's responsibility.
- Moved away from Select Committee approach, retrospective review.

Scrutiny Reviews

- Sharp work programmes.
- Out of Committee work – through Task and Finish Groups
- **Collaborative Inquiry** – Goldbeez Card, Environment review, Obesity and the environment; healthy people healthy places
- **Appreciative Inquiry** – Floods, Foodbanks.
- **Hot Topics/Rapid Review** – **Alley Gates**, **Child Sexual Exploitation**
- Call-In – Community Transport

Scrutiny Methodology

Collaborative Inquiry

- Collaborative Inquiry in a Local Government setting is loosely based around the Executive Member, Lead Member and Scrutiny Members supported by Officers all working together (collaboratively) to deliver a common outcome.
- Councillors, key stakeholders working together to identify common challenges, analyse relevant data, looking at the issues from different angles offering different perspectives.

Scrutiny Methodology

Appreciative Inquiry

- An increasingly popular as a Scrutiny tool very often in an organisational change environment.
- It is a method which discovers the best things about an organisation, team, community or project.

Define' – positive focus of the inquiry.

'Discover' – appreciating and valuing the best of what already exists.

'Dream' – creating a vision of what might be.

'Design' – using information/stories gathered to work out what things should be like.

'Deliver' – innovating – best ways of 'doing' in the future.

Corporate Parenting



TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL - from YouTube.mp4



goldbeez.mp4

Moving Forwards

- Continue new ways of working, improve on our successes
- Focusing on adding value, outcome focused (Challenge question)
- Scrutiny should; focus on continuity, performance, be a critical friend, engage with the public, encourage collaborative partnership working, encourage task groups and push for Member attendance to all meetings and also, there should be no fear of expressing praise rather than just criticism (Members conclusion from the Annual Review 2015)

Don't Forget your Scrutiny Handbook!

- New handbook now a year old and has had a significant impact in helping Members hold the Executive to account as well as being a critical friend.
- Contains everything Members and Officers need to know about what scrutiny is, different approaches and powers.