

REFRESHER/INDUCTION BRIEFING

**A briefing on how Overview and
Scrutiny works at
Bromsgrove District Council**

Presented by:
Amanda Scarce & Jess Bayley
Democratic Services Officers
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Overview
and **Scrutiny**

WHAT IS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY?

“A member-led process, involving investigations, questioning, and clear recommendations, leading to the understanding of complex problems, and improved outcomes in service delivery”.

FIVE KEY POWERS OF SCRUTINY



"Does my bum look big in this?"

Provides 'critical friend' challenge to executive policy-makers and decision-makers. – This should be apolitical!



Is carried out by 'independent minded governors' who lead and own the scrutiny process (Member-led)



Calling-in Cabinet Decisions



Enables the voice and concerns of the public and its communities.



Drives improvement in public services

KEY ROLES OF SCRUTINY



Crime and disorder Scrutiny



Performance Management



Policy Review



Pre-decision Scrutiny



Health Scrutiny



Budget

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

- Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership
- Call In
- Councillor Call for Action

WORK PROGRAMME – CHOOSING THE RIGHT TOPIC

- Is it a priority issue for the Council?
- Is it an important issue for local residents?
- Is it a topic where Overview and Scrutiny can make recommendations?
- Would external review be helpful?
- Is it a poorly performing service?
- Is it a review that could render significant savings or value for money?
- Is it realistic – will it add value to the district and community?

ROLE & RESPONSIBILITY OF A SCRUTINY MEMBER

- Investigation – through written evidence and questioning witnesses
- Research
- Collating evidence
- Making recommendations
- Tracking outcomes

TASK GROUPS

- Most of the policy review work is conducted by Task Groups.
- Members can review anything that impacts on the local community, not just Council services.
- Reviews generally are intense pieces of work that can take approximately six months to complete.
- Task Groups work best where Members work together regardless of political differences.
- Task Groups hold private though informal meetings.
- Members can obtain evidence from a variety of sources, including through consultation.
- Evidence-based recommendations can be made by Task Groups to the Executive Committee to shape policy development.
- Experienced Members have reported in the past that Task Group activities are the most satisfying part of scrutiny.

MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

When making recommendations to Cabinet the Board need to consider the following:

- Do you have sufficient evidence to support your recommendation?
- Is the wording of the recommendation clear and concise?
- Is the recommendation realistically achievable?
- Are there any financial implications?
- Are there any legal implications?

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – ANY QUESTIONS?

