

## Desktop Gap Analysis based on the *Scrutiny Evaluation Framework* of the Centre for Public Scrutiny (now called the Centre for Scrutiny and Governance)

CfPS Principle	Current SCC position	Add to Scrutiny Improvement Plan?
1. Do Members lead and own the overview and scrutiny work programme?	Yes. With considered input from key stakeholders and advice from officers.	×
2. Are overview and scrutiny work programmes flexible to account for unexpected emergencies?	Yes. Encourage a focus on a few key topics for each agenda so that there is flexibility to add urgent items. Also able to use multiple methods to conduct scrutiny.	×
3. Are work programmes focused on adding value, outcomes and prioritisation?	Variable.	✓
4. Does overview & scrutiny have a clearly defined and valued role in the Council's improvement and governance arrangements?	Yes. Clear role set in the council's constitution. Examples of contribution to key improvement programmes (Children's Services, Fire & Rescue Service)	×
5. Does overview and scrutiny have the dedicated officer support it needs from officers who are able to undertake independent research effectively, and	Yes. The scrutiny function is supported by a 6 FTE team. Further support comes from senior officers within the council and, where appropriate, external training.	×

provide councillors with high-quality analysis, advice and training.		
6. Are overview and scrutiny inquiries non-political, methodologically sound and do they incorporate a wide range of evidence and perspectives?	Yes. Expanded use of task & finish methodology has made reviews more robust with greater evidence base behind conclusions and recommendations.	×
7. Does overview and scrutiny provide viable and well evidenced solutions to recognised problems?	Increasingly. This is an area that must continue to develop.	✓
8. Do overview and scrutiny councillors have the training and development opportunities they need to undertake their role effectively?	Internal and external training is offered. Feedback has shown that this offer needs to be clearly communicated.	✓
9. Does the scrutiny process receive effective support from the Council's corporate management team who ensures that information provided to overview and scrutiny is of a high quality and is provided in a timely and consistent manner?	Yes.	×
10. Do decision-makers give public account for themselves at overview and	Yes. Cabinet Members are present at each Select Committee meeting and provide frequent updates on key areas of work.	×

scrutiny committees for their portfolio responsibilities?		
11. Does overview and scrutiny enable the “voice” of local people and communities across the area to be heard as part of decision and policy-making processes?	Via task & finish or longer term pieces of work and through the engagement of co-optees or external witnesses, yes. Mechanisms to ask questions and submit petitions exist as well. This could be an area that is prioritised for development.	✓
12. How are scrutiny councillors involved in influencing major decisions, and in considering and evaluating performance, finance and risk information? <b>Good practice:</b> Evidence of decisions being altered consensually as a result of scrutiny’s involvement.	The convention is for pre-decision scrutiny at the council which allows for Select Committee engagement in key decisions.	✗
13. Do different people with a role in holding decision-makers to account (like scrutiny, the Police and Crime Panel, a combined authority scrutiny committee, local Healthwatch) work together?	There have been examples of collaboration between different bodies on cross-cutting issues. This should continue to develop.	✓

This page is intentionally left blank