

Recommendations from Scrutiny Training 9 October 2020

Following the two scrutiny training sessions on 9 October 2020 with David McGrath from Link UK Ltd., a number of recommendations were formulated by those Members that attended:

- Offer training/an awareness session on scrutiny to Selby's Executive Members. New Statutory guidance highlights the need to scrutiny to 'have a defined impact on the ground' (P21) and the Executive role in supporting this requirement is key. The new Statutory guidance could provide the opportunity for a reconsideration of the Executive Scrutiny role.
- Improve collaborative and cross party working between Scrutiny/Policy Review/Audit and Governance Chairs and the Executive (reinstate Scrutiny Chair and Executive Quarterly meeting?)
- Continue to refine the work programmes of the committees – make sure there is more outcome focused work.
- Vision and purpose is key – make sure there are links to the fundamental purpose of reviews.
- A more Member-led approach and better working with the Executive and Senior Officers.
- Members should produce questions on topics for discussion before the discussion is had at the actual committee meeting; these questions should be sent to presenter/report authors so that responses can be incorporated into the report so that they can either be noted or probed further. This would save time and allow Members to focus on value adding suggestions and recommendations.
- More support from Senior Officers and a recognition of the importance of scrutiny from the Executive.
- Develop a way of tracking queries and actions so that Members can see where their recommendations and/or queries end up, and what has happened because of them. OUTCOMES are key.
- Make sure that any recommendations are processed in a way that helps the Executive to make use of them and take them forward should they so wish – more effective review and committee processes.
- There are examples of where cross-party working has gone well, i.e. Housing Centres Review and Low Carbon Working Group – build on these positives.
- Annual reports should seek to focus on outcomes sought or achieved rather than activities undertaken to align with the requirements of (and challenge proposed by) the Statutory Guidance.