

Ref	Recommendation	Organisational response Insert here relevant commentary on the procedures planned in response to the recommendations	Observations from the scrutiny workshops	
A1	<p><b>Draw up a scrutiny programme</b></p> <p><b>A1</b> – The Cabinet’s forward programme and the Council Plan should have more influence on the public scrutiny committees’ forward programmes so that the scrutiny output feeds into the decisions planned by the Cabinet.</p>	<p>The Scrutiny committees’ annual workshops give detailed attention to the Council Plan, prioritising items of the Plan when they are timely to be scrutinised.</p> <p>We have already moved forward with arrangements to strengthen the Cabinet’s forward programme to improve the relationship between the Cabinet and the Scrutiny’s forward programme.</p> <p>A new template for Cabinet reports will include specific reference on matters raised by the scrutiny committees will be in operation from September 2023 forward.</p> <p>Annual milestones that need to be achieved for the Council Plan will be shared with the relevant Members and Scrutiny Officers.</p>	<p>Agree with the actions that have already been noted.</p> <p>Need to add that the Cabinet Member and the Service Head are present in the committee and are accountable to the scrutiny members, therefore not everything will need to feed directly to a Cabinet meeting.</p> <p>There may be room to further highlight which items are from the council’s plan and/or are for forward scrutiny.</p> <p>See observations for recommendation 6 also.</p>	
A6	<p><b>Tracking the impact of scrutiny</b></p> <p><b>A6</b> – The process of reporting on the decisions of the scrutiny committees should be strengthened and a formal tracking arrangement should be adopted, in order to get the best value for money and highlight publicly the</p>	<p>Several different factors come together in order to improve our arrangements for tracking the impact of scrutiny.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will arrange training for the scrutiny Chairs on how to draw up clear recommendations and/or how to refer a matter to the Cabinet</li> </ul>	<p>Acknowledgement that there is room to create clearer and more detailed recommendations following scrutiny on some items.</p> <p>Understanding that good scrutiny takes place with several different items, where the scrutiny members agree with the Cabinet Member’s</p>	

	<p>contribution of the scrutiny system to the Council's governance arrangements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are now specific references in Cabinet reports to the considerations raised by scrutiny committees.</li> <li>• Members of the Scrutiny Forum have a responsibility to self-evaluate their performance, including assessing the impact of scrutiny.</li> <li>• We will consider the Scrutiny Chairs' role when presenting observations/ recommendations in Cabinet meetings on matters that have been forward scrutinised.</li> </ul>	<p>direction – and that 'accepting the report by noting the observations' also leads to effective scrutiny – but that there is room to improve this understanding across all members.</p> <p>Possible role for the Chair or Vice-chair to summarise the observations at the end of an item to see whether a more specific recommendation comes at the end of the item.</p> <p>Suggestion of the need to develop a formal procedure to track scrutiny recommendations and ensure responses by the Cabinet Member/ the Cabinet.</p> <p>Support for the development of the Chair's role to attend Cabinet meetings when there is a forward scrutinised item.</p>	
<p><b>A2</b></p>	<p><b>Highlight performance information</b>  <b>A2</b> – Higher prominence should be given to performance information within public scrutiny committees to challenge the progress made.</p>	<p>Work is already moving forward as the corporate director is attending performance challenging meetings jointly with the Scrutiny Members, with the director supporting the scrutinisers to identify matters to be scrutinised further.</p> <p>Further consideration is given to reporting publicly as performance challenging arrangements are developed and adapted.</p>	<p>Current arrangements of attending the challenging performance meetings occasionally are not working – especially in terms of arrangements to report back to the informal meeting.</p> <p>Need for strong independent guidance by the corporate directors</p>	

			<p>to help Members to identify matters to further scrutinise.</p> <p>Need to consider a) reporting back from the meetings to the public committee formally or b) include performance reports in the formal committees (twice a year)</p>	
<b>A3</b>	<p><b>Training</b></p> <p><b>A3</b> – Appropriate providers should be used whether internally or externally to provide training in specialist fields such as questioning skills, financial matters and the Well-being of Future Generations Act, in order to increase the members’ confidence to challenge effectively.</p>	<p>A comprehensive training programme is provided for Councillors, with the first two years following an election always heavy. Professional providers are used to provide training, whether they be internal or external officers.</p> <p>Training will be arranged in accordance with the need/demand by choosing the most suitable provider, whether that be internal or external.</p>	<p>See A6 – training to draw up strong recommendations has been made to the Chairs and vice-chairs.</p> <p>In addition, arrangements are being developed to host training for effective Chairing and ‘how to question in scrutiny committees’ training. The questioning training will include an element on legislative considerations.</p>	
<b>A4</b>	<p><b>Strengthen legislative considerations</b></p> <p><b>A4</b> – The scrutiny processes should be reviewed to ensure that appropriate emphasis is placed on legislation including the Equality Act 2010 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, to ensure compliance.</p>	<p>We will continue to remind the Councillors of the requirements at the annual training.</p> <p>Work already moving forward as we had already included a leaflet to remind the Councillors of the relevant considerations when sharing the meeting agenda with them.</p>	<p>Additionally, following discussions, the need to host training on declaration of interest in scrutiny committees was noted.</p>	
<b>A5</b>	<p><b>Scrutiny investigations</b></p>	<p>There had been a reduction in the scrutiny investigations held following covid-19</p>	<p>There was support to hold more investigations (and more</p>	

**A5** – Consideration should be given to hold a higher number of investigations by inviting a limited number of members to join the task and finish group from every scrutiny committee or all members, so that those that have an interest in the field get the opportunity to participate and maintain enthusiasm. This will also be a medium to engage with the public.

restrictions. Restarting the formal scrutiny work in the committees was prioritised. It was decided to restart on the scrutiny investigations at the beginning of the new Council term.

The current arrangements for investigations meant that we try and identify members amongst the committees for investigations, extending the invitation to all members if there isn't sufficient interest. Our investigations are already a medium to strengthen the engagement with the public.

committees) even though doing both elements would not be possible.

There is an obvious challenge regarding members' time to commit to investigations.

“Interest” and “understanding of the field” can be too close at times – see above regarding declaration of interest.

Resources need to be considered (Councillors, scrutiny officers and other officers) for investigations.

Acknowledgement that it is hard for Councillors to recognise which subjects are sensible for a scrutiny investigation and more guidance is needed on this. There is a need to raise the awareness of Scrutineers of the procedures to follow in terms of recognising/prioritising investigations and task and finish groups.