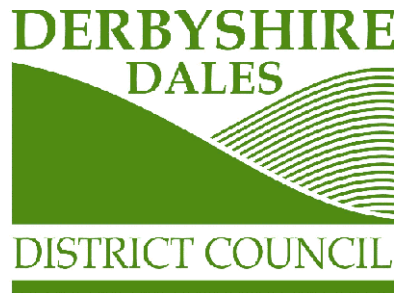




South  
Derbyshire  
District Council



# ADSO Workshop - Overview and Scrutiny in a Fourth Option Council

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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# Introduction

- Paul Spencer, Principal Democratic Services Officer, South Derbyshire District Council
- Ros Hession, Overview and Community Engagement Officer, Derbyshire Dales District Council

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# Outline of the Workshop

- How 4<sup>th</sup> option councils in Derbyshire approach the scrutiny function.
- South Derbyshire's Self Scrutiny – How we've reviewed our Overview and Scrutiny function
- How scrutiny at Derbyshire Dales has evolved
- Examples of Scrutiny Reviews
- Group discussion and questions

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# SDDC Review of Overview and Scrutiny

- Focus Sessions
- 'Self scrutiny' Review Process
- Baseline Assessment
- External Peer Review

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# Peer Review

- Submission of documents and initial lines of enquiry
- On-site discussions with Members and Officers
- Attendance at a committee meeting
- Positive report - confirmed the good progress that the Committee had made

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# Peer Review Report

**“external focus..... made good use of the well being powers..... Looking at issues which maybe are of great importance to the local community.....demonstrating both place shaping and community leadership”**

***“South Derbyshire is clearly ambitious for its scrutiny process”***

**“operates in an informal, business like and relaxed way which provides a suitable environment for good scrutiny”**

***“no evidence from the senior management of fear of scrutiny....in part due to the close working relationship that directors have with the Committee”***

**“evident that Overview and Scrutiny is taken seriously by both Members and Officers”**

**“Management of the scrutiny work programme appears to be effective”**

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# Review Recommendations

- Format of O & S Review Reports
- Prioritising review areas against corporate priorities
- Revised scoping document
- Use of a scoring matrix
- Consultation on the work programme
- Amendments to the Constitution – CCfA and Crime & Disorder
- Task group working

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# Work Programme

- 7 scheduled meetings each year
- Additional meetings and task groups arranged as required
- Policy Committees undertake the performance monitoring role
- External Focus
- Mix of light touch single meeting reviews/updates and longer-term, more detailed reviews
- Where external contributors involved - circulate questions in advance
- Some meetings held off site

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# Work Programme

- Examples of review work:
  - Health Scrutiny
  - Partnership for the Rosliston Forestry Centre
  - Work with BT on broadband

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## How Overview & Scrutiny has evolved at Derbyshire Dales

- Refined and rationalised structure – one Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 15 members
- Learning from experience
- Greater focus – identifying expected outcomes
- Alignment to corporate aims and objectives

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## Derbyshire Dales' Work programme

- 6 / 7 meetings per year plus Inquiry Teams and Project meetings
- O & S Committee sets it own work programme – usually one major review and 2 or 3 Key Challenges
- Budget Scrutiny
- Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Matters
- Annual Report to Council
- Performance management undertaken by policy committees

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# Achievements and examples of reviews

- Developing policies and procedures
- Shifting emphasis from recommending expenditure to identifying efficiency savings
- Future role for Overview & Scrutiny

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# Over to You!

- Any Questions?
- General Discussion

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