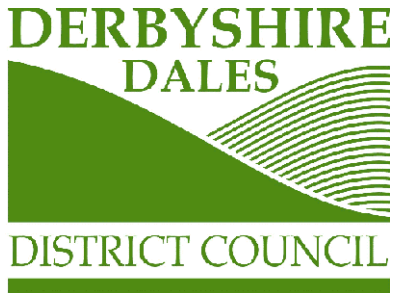




South
Derbyshire
District Council



ADSO Workshop - Overview and Scrutiny in a Fourth Option Council

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

South Derbyshire Changing for the better

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 4th 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 its 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 polices 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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