

AN INTRODUCTION TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

“Effective public scrutiny committees can be a powerful vehicle for change. It can improve the delivery of services; it can connect the public to decision-makers and politicians; it can improve efficiency.....”

[Centre for Governance and Scrutiny 2008]

WHAT IS SCRUTINY?

Focus on matters of real concern to citizens of the Isle of Anglesey.

Challenge decision makers to drive forward better performance.

Provide checks and balances for Executive decision making.

4 KEY PRINCIPLES

1. Provide a “critical friend” challenge to the Executive.
2. Reflect the voice and concerns of citizens.
3. Be led and owned by Members of the Council.
4. Make an impact on service delivery.

WHAT SCRUTINY IS NOT.....

Getting involved in minor matters or matters involving individuals.

Dealing with complaints or regulatory matters e.g. planning or licence applications.

Dealing with matters that are still subject to court proceedings.

Political.

A debating Chamber.

Considering matters subject to review by another organisation within or external to the Local Authority.

Opportunity to ask questions of officers on non-agenda items.

Negative.

A place to have a nice look at things.

WORK OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Scrutiny Committees can:

1. Review and scrutinise decisions of the Executive, individual Portfolio Holders or Offices of the Council.
2. Prepare reports or make recommendations.
3. Review any matters referred to it under "Call In" rules and prepare reports and recommendations as required.
4. Review and scrutinise the performance of services.
5. Respond to external organisations whose actions affect the residents of the Island.
6. Require Executive Members and senior officers to attend meetings and to be challenged about matters within their areas of responsibility.
7. Invite expert advisors, other Members of the Council, stakeholders or members of the public to take part in Scrutiny reviews.
8. Refer matters to the Scrutiny Panels (made up of smaller groups of Members).

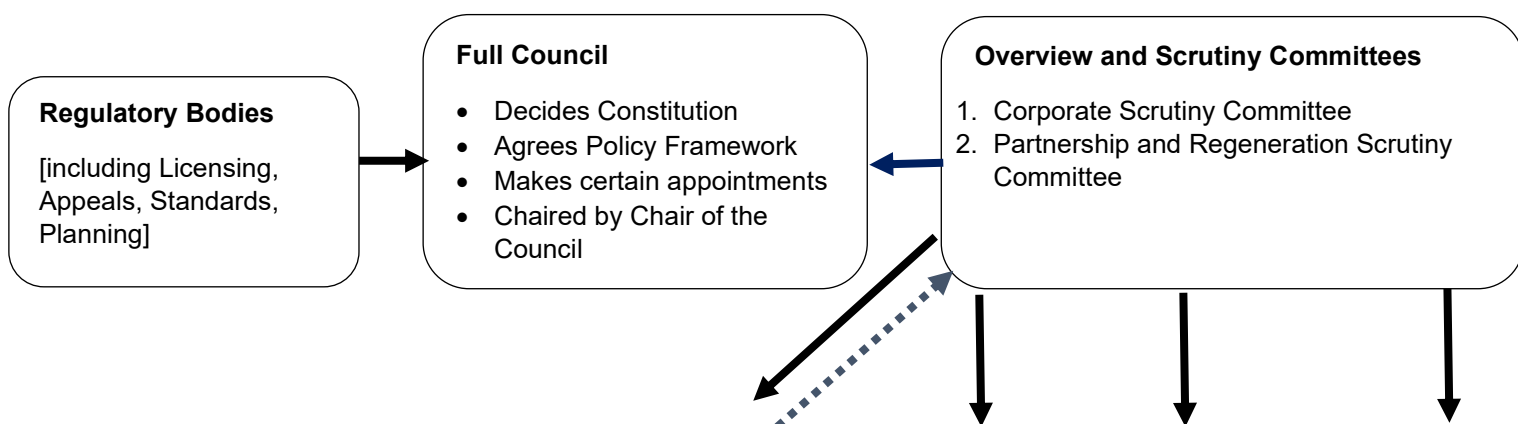
COUNCIL STRUCTURE

The Council has 35 Councillors in total. 9 Councillors form the Executive, the main decision making body. The Council also has a number of Committees to deal with matters like Licensing, Planning and internal issues such as Governance and Staffing Matters.

The rules governing the way in which Overview and Scrutiny Committees operate including the legislative context can be found in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

There are 2 Overview and Scrutiny Committees involving the majority of our Elected Members.

SCRUTINY WITHIN THE COUNCIL'S DECISION MAKING PROCESS



**Executive
Leader and Portfolio Holders (9)**

- Proposes policy and budget
- Implements policy framework
- Takes delegated executive decisions as a group or individuals

Social
Services
Scrutiny
Panel

Resources
Scrutiny
Panel

Education
Scrutiny
Panel