

Overview and Scrutiny

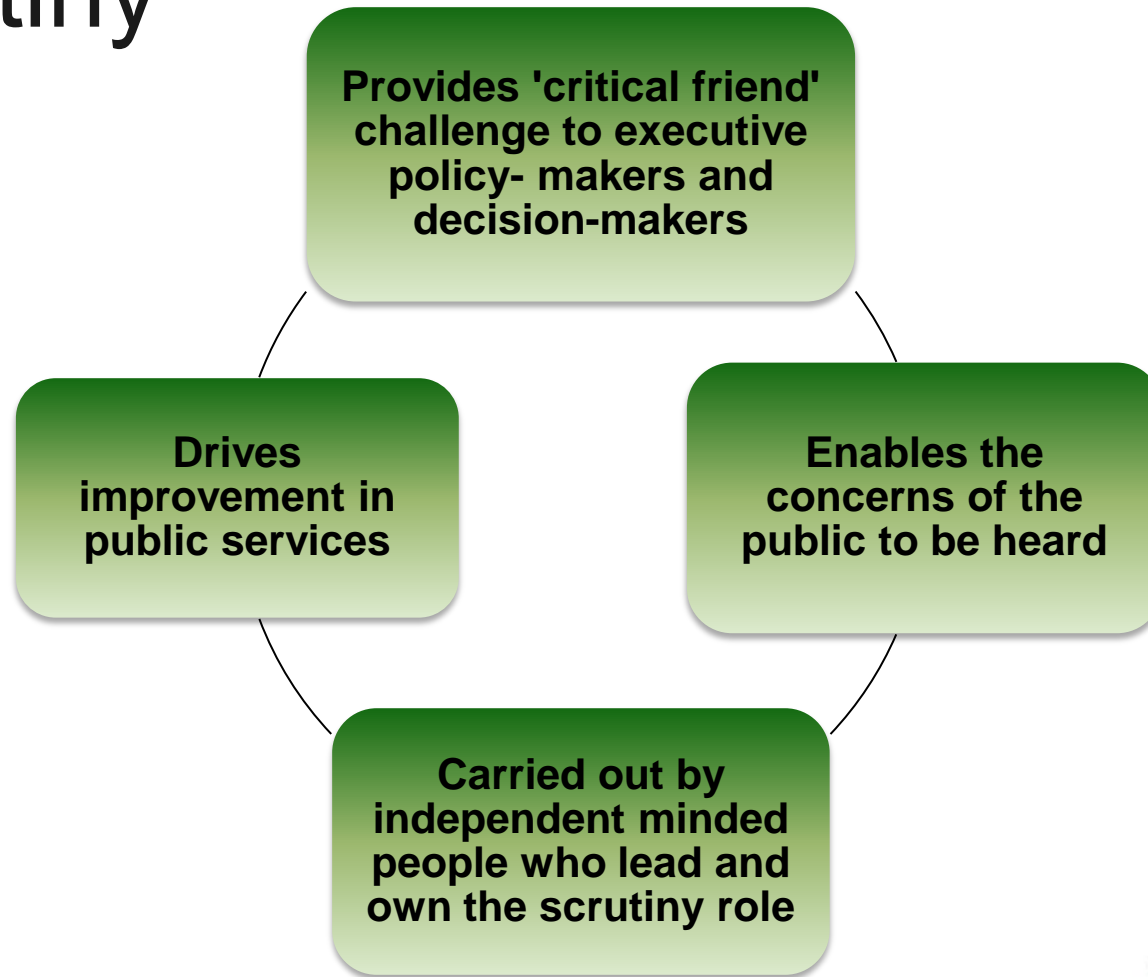
Principles into Practice

August 2010

Objectives

- To build a shared view of what overview and scrutiny could be
- To work towards common working practices across all Scrutiny Panels
- To agree some steps to develop overview and scrutiny

The CfPS four principles of good scrutiny



Scrutiny Panels should

- be member led
- be non partisan
- be in the public gaze
- engage the public as much as possible
- get involved earlier rather than later
- take evidence from a variety of sources
- add value
- improve decision making in the council

To help, we are....

- Trying to help working parties be focussed and time limited
- Specifying how scrutiny items should be dealt with, rather than waiting to see what the officer report says
- Reducing the number of report back and monitoring items
- Working with Amanda on member development and training
- Raising the awareness of officers of how scrutiny should be

What would you like to see change or improve?

Good practice in terms of a scrutiny process would involve:

- developing an inclusive approach, working to engage all stakeholders, including partners and the public
- working in a transparent way, where it is clear to all those involved how the overview and scrutiny process works
- demonstrating accountability for the processes and outcomes of overview and scrutiny
- being efficient in the work of overview and scrutiny, responding to the needs and aspirations of the community
- working in a deliberative way which underpins an evidence-based approach to the way overview and scrutiny works
- demonstrating a non-partisan approach to the work of overview and scrutiny, which places the needs and aspirations of the community above the consideration of party politics
- strengthening the democratic process of decision-making through improving the quality of debate and initiating debate

Source: ODPM – The development of overview and scrutiny in local government 2002