
Performance and Finance Select Committee: Annual Scrutiny Performance 2017/18

Background

- 1** Each year an assessment is carried out on the performance of the four County Council Select Committees. The assessment takes the form of a questionnaire which is sent to all members of the select committees. The findings are reported through an Annual Newsletter which is presented to the Performance and Finance Select Committee (PFSC). The newsletter also includes details of the specific performance which is measured each year. The newsletter was reviewed by PFSC in July 2018.
- 2** In February 2018 an all-member session also took place to review scrutiny at West Sussex. One of the recommendations from that session was that scrutiny performance should be reported through County Council in order to raise the profile and benefits of strong scrutiny.

Discussion

- 3** PFSC has overall responsibility for monitoring the performance of the scrutiny function at the County Council. It carries this out through the publication and review of the scrutiny newsletter, which is intended to provide members with information to fulfil this monitoring role. The newsletter provides an annual overview of the work of the select committees, reports overall performance of the scrutiny function, shares best practice and highlights any future development or training required by select committee members.
- 4** 2017/18 was not a typical year for scrutiny due to it being an election year and a lot of new members being appointed to the committees. There was also a Parliamentary Committee set up to review the effectiveness of scrutiny in Local Authorities.
- 5** The newsletter, **attached at Appendix 1** for the Council's approval, provides a summary of information collated from the Select Committee Annual Survey and feedback from the all member scrutiny session held in February 2018. This identifies aspects of scrutiny that have worked well; structure of scrutiny, support by the Cabinet and also those areas that had not worked quite so well; long meeting agendas, meetings over-running and reports being provided late.
- 6** The newsletter was reviewed at the July meeting of PFSC and recommendations made to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of scrutiny.

Recommended

That the Annual Scrutiny Newsletter 2017/18, as attached at Appendix 1, be approved.

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Background Papers

None