

Scrutiny

| | |
|--|--|
| Cost: Low | If you incur costs you may be able to claim your expense back from the council |
| Time: Low | The time you commit is entirely up to you |
| Requirements for Position: None | Anyone can get involved with Scrutiny |
| Training Offered: Yes | Training will be provided to anyone who requires it |

What is Scrutiny?

Scrutiny is part of the political management structure within the council and it acts to review and/or scrutinise any decisions or actions made within the council and to consider any matters that affects either the area or people of Hartlepool.

Scrutiny was introduced by the Local Government Act 2000 with the aim to reflect the voice and concerns of the public and to challenge the ways that our public services are delivered.

It is a method to allow councillors and the public to question, evaluate and challenge policies, decisions, and performance of the council. It is also a means to hold the executive to account for the decisions it makes.

Scrutiny has the ability to investigate and review different issues, aspects, decisions of the council and it can then make recommendations to cabinet or full council.

It is important to note that scrutiny is not a decision making body, nor does it deal with individual queries or complaints.

How does Scrutiny work?

The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and the five Scrutiny Forums conduct all of the overview and scrutiny functions in Hartlepool.

The five Scrutiny Forums each deal with a specific area of service these are: neighbourhood services, children's services, regeneration and planning, health, and adult and community services.

Scrutiny Committee members are comprised of elected councillors (excluding those on the executive), resident representatives from the neighbourhood consultative forums, and Young People.

Members of the public can also become involved in the scrutiny process without being a member of a Scrutiny Committee.

Scrutiny is an impartial and evidence based process. This simply means that all investigations, recommendations, and actions are strongly supported by facts and evidence rather than on personal or political opinions.

Scrutiny can call upon councillors, council officers, Cabinet members, expert witnesses, residents and stakeholders to answer questions or provide evidence about the issues under scrutiny. The use of witnesses and substantiated evidence ensures that recommendations made by Scrutiny are fully informed and researched.

How can I become involved in Scrutiny?

Community involvement is a vital part of scrutiny and there are a number of ways you can get involved.

Anyone can become involved in Scrutiny in the following ways and the amount of time you spend is entirely up to you.

Attend a meeting of a Scrutiny Committee

You may wish to attend a meeting of a Scrutiny Committee for an issue or topic of concern or interest to you. You can view the dates of all meetings on the council website, [click here](#) for more details.

Present evidence to a Scrutiny Committee

Members of the public, experts or stakeholders may be asked to appear as a witness at a Scrutiny meeting and answer questions or give written evidence.

Attend a site visit with a member of a Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny will often undertake site visits during an investigation and interact with residents to witness the delivery of services locally or to experience and understand an issue first hand.

Suggest a topic for a Scrutiny investigation

If there is a topic that you feel deserves a Scrutiny investigation then either contact the Scrutiny Support Team or your local Councillor. All suggestions will be considered, however not all suggestions can be followed through.

Take part in public consultation held by a Scrutiny Committee

You can get involved in Scrutiny at any point however there will be various circumstances where a Scrutiny Committee may hold a public consultation. Any up and coming public consultation will be publicised through Hartlepool Mail, the council, and various other public means.

For more information about getting involved in Scrutiny please [click here](#).