



## What is Scrutiny?

It is a way of challenging and influencing the development of council policies, helping to improve and maintain performance and holding the Cabinet to account. Cabinet makes decisions. Scrutiny Committees make recommendations.

## What does it do exactly?

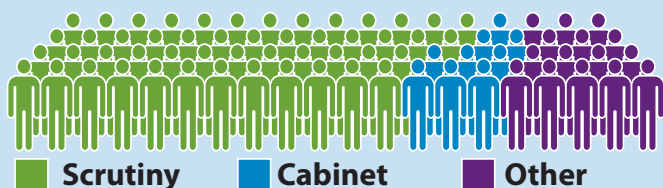
Investigates services and their impact on lives of local people. Whilst Scrutiny Committees do not have the power to make decisions themselves, they influence decisions of the Cabinet – through reports of their work and recommendations.

## Who does it?

Councillors who are not Members of Cabinet. There are five themed Committees with 10 councillors on each.



**Out of a total of 74 councillors, 50 are involved in Scrutiny Committees and nine make up Shropshire Council's Cabinet.**



## How does it do it?

Task and finish groups – in depth reviews of issues relevant to local people.

Considering reports and questioning officers at Committee meetings.

Cabinet Members and Officers are required to attend to answer question and provide information

Invite witnesses and experts to share knowledge and experiences (this could be you).

Local Joint Committees look at local matters and can refer up to scrutiny.

## Asking questions of those in power

- **Performance** – Are services fit for purpose and on budget?
- **Policies** – Do our Plans and Partners' plans support the needs of Shropshire people?
- **Call in** – Are the big decisions right for Shropshire people, through a 'call in' process.
- **Reviews** – New ideas and service improvements to meet current and future challenges.

## Typical topics being discussed:

- Looking after vulnerable citizens
- Transport
- Looking after roads in winter
- Speeding Policies
- Tourism
- Council Spending and Financial Plans for the coming years
- Local health and wellbeing

## How can you get involved?

Public question time at each meeting.

**Suggesting topics for Scrutiny** – are there issues affecting you and your community that you would like to see considered?

**Attend meetings.**

**Provide information.**

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