

Scrutiny – Making A Difference



You don't need a magnifying glass to carry out effective Scrutiny but it helps

'Scrutiny' – What Is It?

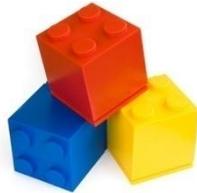
Dictionary Definition:

- *a searching gaze*
- *Investigation, examination, critical observation;*



Scrutiny - What Is It?

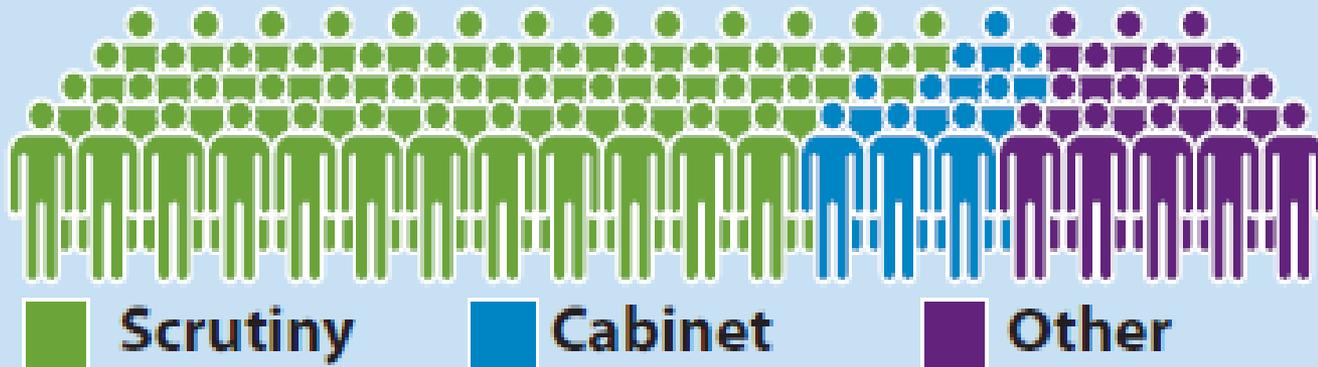
- Scrutiny is one of the **building blocks of local democracy**.



- It holds Cabinet to account for the decisions it makes, challenges performance and makes suggestions for improvement

Who Does It?

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



How we go about our work

- ‘Select Committee’ style sessions
- In depth reviews – carried out by ‘Task and Finish Groups’ or ‘Inquiries’
- ‘Call In’
- Pre-decision discussions and analysis
- One off reviews
- Listen to the views of local people

How a 'Task and Finish Group' Works

- Issue identified and agreed for review
- Group decides what needs to be done
- Group gathers evidence (from Council Officers, best practice councils, the public, partner organisations etc)



How a Task and Finish Group Works

- Group draws conclusions together and makes recommendations for improvement
- Report and recommendations put to Cabinet
- Cabinet decide whether to accept and implement scrutiny recommendations



Ways You Can Be Involved

- Bring matters to the attention of your Local Councillor or Local Joint Committee



- Suggest topics for review using your knowledge of local services and concerns

- Use '**Shape My Shropshire**' Facebook page out what's going on and submit your views



- 'Public Question Time' at Scrutiny meetings

Shape My Shropshire - Windows Internet Explorer

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Shape My Shropshire is your opportunity to join the conversation on how services are delivered in Shropshire

22

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Does it Work?

Topic	Result
Utilities companies on the Shropshire Highway	Council has increased inspections - utilities companies have improved their reinstatements (repairing the road after their work).
Free school meals	More information available and now easier for eligible parents and carers to apply
Autism	Improved diagnosis. Councillors more able to signpost services

Other Typical topics

- Looking after Vulnerable Citizens
- Transport
- Looking after roads in Winter
- Supporting Business
- Council Spending and Financial Plans for the coming years
- Local Health and Wellbeing

Where Can I Find Out More?

Contact Your Local Councillor

Shape My Shropshire – on Facebook



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