

## Management response

**Report title:** Overview and Scrutiny: Fit for the future? – Monmouth County Council

**Completion date:** August 2018

**Document reference:** 639A2018-19

### Proposals for improvement

Ref	Proposal for improvement	Intended outcome/ benefit	High priority (yes/no)	Accepted (yes/no)	Management response	Completion date	Responsible officer
	The Council's scrutiny function could be strengthened by:						
P1	Ensuring that the Public Service Board select committee complies with the Access to Information Procedure Rules within the Council's constitution.	More effective scrutiny and challenge.	Y	Yes	<p>We always seek to work within the council's constitution and it is good practise to put written reports before members so that they have as much information as possible to properly scrutinise.</p> <p>The authority's monitoring officer has confirmed that if no report is available it does not constitute a breach of our access to information procedure rules.</p> <p>There will always be occasions when a report is not required and the officer</p>	September 2018	Head of Policy & Governance

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					attending will give a verbal update. Members can still ask questions of the officer and the details will be available via the live stream and pertinent points captured subsequently in the printed minutes.		
P2	Providing further training on the Well-being of Future Generations Act for scrutiny members to improve their understanding and consideration of the Act when undertaking scrutiny activity.	Better challenge in meetings around whether the Council is complying with the Well-being of Future Generations Act.	Y	Yes	<p>A range of training has been provided to members since the introduction of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. This includes training for members on the new Public Service Board Select Committee which has been in place since summer 2017.</p> <p>A new training module on the Future Generations act has been developed through the corporate training service and this is being made available to members to inform their role.</p>	December 2018	Head of Policy & Governance
P3	Reviewing the level, type and resilience of the scrutiny support function to meet future challenges.	Assurance that scrutiny is able to meet future challenges.	Y	Yes	An Interim Scrutiny Officer has been appointed from August 2018. Proposals are being developed to provide a	December 2018	Head of Policy & Governance

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					sustainable and permanent solution which will increase the resilience of the scrutiny function.		
P4	Clarifying the role of Cabinet Members when attending select committees to observe.	Clarity over the role of Cabinet Members when attending Select Committee meetings uninvited.	N	Yes	<p>Cabinet members' role in the scrutiny process for accountability is clear and they are welcome to observe any scrutiny meetings in line with the council's code of conduct which states that:</p> <p>“Members of the Council are entitled to attend any formal meeting of the Council, its committees or sub-committees or the Cabinet...Where they are not a Member of that body, their attendance and right to speak is at the discretion of the Chair of the body.”</p> <p>To clarify our process, an update will be made to the scrutiny protocol on the role of Cabinet Members when attending select committees to observe with the option to</p>	October 2018	Head of Policy & governance

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					contribute being at the discretion of the chair.		
P5	Assessing the impact of the workshop approach.	Evaluation of the workshop approach as a future form of scrutiny.	N	Yes	The workshop approach will be evaluated as part of the scrutiny service business plan 2018/21. The workshop approach is an identified area of activity in the plan.	March 2019	Scrutiny Manager