



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Monday, 23 September 2019 in the Members' Lounge, Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee members present:

Councillors Ibison, I Amos, R Amos, Collinson, Cropper, E Ellison, Fail, Longton, Minto and O'Neill

Apologies for absence:

Councillors Matthew Vincent, Ballard and Leech

Officers present:

Peter Foulsham, Scrutiny Officer
Emma Keany, Governance Trainee

No members of the public or press attended the meeting.

23 Declarations of interest

None.

24 Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities

Dr Stephanie Snape facilitated a discussion about the Statutory Guidance for Scrutiny and the way that it could impact upon the work of the committee.

Dr Snape was an Associate Director of the Institute of Local Government Studies (INLOGOV) at the University of Birmingham who had worked for nine years at Warwick Business School at the University of Warwick. She had undertaken extensive work on local government overview & scrutiny since its inception and had worked on supporting the overview & scrutiny arrangements of over a hundred local councils in the past 20 years.

The committee refreshed their understanding of the key principles of scrutiny, as defined by the Centre for Public Scrutiny and underlined by the Statutory Guidance, considered the roles of the function and the tools and techniques for effective scrutiny.

A number of themes for future consideration were identified and agreed, including:

- Being aware of the place of scrutiny within the wider governance arrangements
- The importance of other groups of councillors and officers having an understanding of the purpose of scrutiny, not just the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Trying to anticipate any future policy or service developments within the council and seeking ways in which scrutiny might add value
- Being aware of a wide range of sources for potential Work Programme topics
- Understanding how to prioritise topics for a Work Programme, applying agreed criteria

The Chairman thanked Dr Snape for facilitating an inspirational and very positive discussion about the Statutory Scrutiny Guidance, which would be of benefit to committee and the wider council.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 8.34 pm.

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