

Scrutiny Overview Committee

**Agenda
Item No.
7**

Date: 1 December, 2015

Cabinet Member feedback on the revised scrutiny process

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: All

Executive Summary

This report sets out the views received from Members of Cabinet regarding the revised scrutiny arrangements.

Reason for scrutiny

The Chair of the Scrutiny Overview Committee was requested, at a meeting held on 15 September, 2015, to contact Cabinet Members for feedback on the revised scrutiny arrangements.

Recommendation

To consider the feedback received and suggest any further revisions to the scrutiny process.

Background Papers

None.

Resource and legal considerations

None arising directly from this report.

Citizen impact:

None arising directly from this report.

Performance management:

None arising directly from this report.


Equality Implications

None arising directly from this report.

Consultation:

None.

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Report

1. Feedback received from Cabinet Members

1.1 The overall view from Portfolio Holders has been positive:-

- The revised layout gives a greater focus to the person who is presenting a report, whether that's a Cabinet member, the Chief Exec of the Hospital Trust or another witness;
- Greater emphasis on the Portfolio holder is essential;
- The focus on areas requiring greatest scrutiny has been beneficial;
- The new arrangement seems a more effective and streamlined way of doing business.

1.2 Portfolio Holders also raised some issues which could be considered further by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:-

- The revised layout hinders wider discussion with those who are not at the table, but are waiting their turn;
- It is important that Portfolio Holders are accompanied by the Executive Director or relevant Assistant Director at the table whilst giving evidence as they are able to provide further detail, should it be required.
- A large number of items on an agenda can prohibit full discussion, particularly on those items which are considered last.
- It would be useful to have tables for those waiting to be called;
- It maybe an idea to time agenda, especially for officers so they don't have sit there for hours for one item that under the new system they do not contribute much too as the portfolio holder does.
- Portfolio Holders should be allowed to add to debate while waiting to be called or after they have returned to the seated area.

1.3 A further suggestion is that Members of each Scrutiny Committee should be advised of the items to be considered at the next meeting once agreed by the Chair. They should also be invited to submit questions in advance of the meeting which the Portfolio Holder will respond to.