

THE ANNUAL REPORT

of Overview and Scrutiny in
Watford Borough Council 2010/11



WATFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

A REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Overview and scrutiny annual report – 2010/11

I.

Introduction and overview

Both of the scrutiny committees and the Budget Panel have successfully completed their work programmes and achieved outcomes which have contributed to the work of the council. During this year we have conducted two major policy reviews, reviewed the performance of six service areas and thoroughly examined the 2011/12 budget proposals.

Discussions on the future structure of scrutiny started in 2009/10 have progressed to conclusion. In 2011/12 there will be one formal committee, Overview & Scrutiny, and a number of sub-committees and task groups reporting to it. The current Policy Development and Call-in and Performance committees will cease to operate although their respective roles will continue.

The effective operation of the new structure will require training for members and officers on how the structure will operate and on the relationships between members, officers and people from outside the council. Additionally, there should be refresher training on scrutiny management, applications and skills for members. Information on the new structure will need to be provided for people from outside the council attending scrutiny meetings. This should be for witnesses and members of the public and cover simple practical matters, such as access, and more complex issues such as status and the right to speak.

We have carried out an annual scrutiny survey this year to provide a benchmark to assess the effectiveness of the new structure in future years. A summary of the results can be found in paragraph 5 of this report.

Scrutiny chairs and vice chairs have met three times with the Mayor and members of the Cabinet in 2010/11. Discussions this year have been dominated by the structural changes but have also included and looked at relationships between scrutiny members and cabinet members and the progress of work plans. Some new working practices were agreed which will need further development in 2011/12. Three further meetings have been arranged for 2011/12.

Officers have continued to play an active role in the Hertfordshire Scrutiny Network, an association of people from the County Council and the ten district councils. The group meets four times per year, discusses matters of mutual interest, shares information on current work seeking opportunities for joint working and organises joint events.



2. Policy Development Scrutiny Committee

Membership:

Councillor McLeod (Chair)

Councillor Watkin (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Collett, Counter, Forest, Greenslade, Lovejoy, Meerabux and Taj

2.1 The Committee's work programme for 2010/11

The Policy Development Scrutiny Committee typically looks at two to three topics per year in depth. The topics are selected by the committee at an early meeting from a shortlist of proposals from officers, cabinet, backbench members and through consultation with others inside and outside the council.

The committee met on ten occasions between June 2010 and March 2011. At its first meeting in June it considered a shortlist of review topics developed through the consultation process. The following topics were chosen in order of preference:

- (i) Services for the deceased
- (ii) Affordable housing
- (iii) Best practice town centre renewal

A review of parking policies was considered but deferred until later in the year, however, due to a lack of committee time, the review was not taken forward but placed on the provisional work programme for 2011/12.

The committee also concluded its 2009/10 review of the South West Herts Transport Strategy by agreeing a final draft report and referring it to cabinet for consideration.

2.2 Services for the deceased

This review was carried out by a task group appointed by the main committee. The group was led by Councillor Watkin who was ably assisted by Councillors Counter, Collett and Dhindsa.

The purpose of this review was to investigate the services for the deceased offered by the council. The review was centred on the council's two cemeteries and looked at the current provision of services and the future needs of the borough.

The Committee found that the cemeteries are a valuable asset to the borough and are acknowledged as being well-run and providing an excellent service. They are particularly important for certain faith, belief and community groups. There are however a number of changes to policies which could be made to better accommodate the needs of these different groups.

The service is not financially self-sufficient and the current fees structure should be reviewed to ensure more of the costs are covered, eventually

leading to self-sufficiency. In considering how this service will be provided in the future, the council will need to be mindful of environmental concerns as well as the needs of faith groups and ensure accessibility for all residents. With capacity due to run out in 14 years the council will shortly need to start investigating new sites which will be able to accommodate the wider requirements identified in the report.

The report made 10 recommendations to cabinet, the outcomes and impact of the agreed recommendations will be reviewed during 2011/12.

2.3 Affordable housing

The committee set out to establish the current position of supply and demand, to investigate the barriers to more affordable housing, to look at the current policies being pursued to see if there is scope to provide more affordable housing in the borough and to establish how affordable housing is provided and what improvements could be made.

The committee found that the provision of affordable housing is a growing problem with no easy solutions. The most significant barriers to more affordable housing in Watford are beyond the control of the council; in particular the shortage of land in the borough and the high house prices both regionally and nationally. However, the council does have powers as the local planning authority and it is the council which maintains the housing register.

Affordable housing is an area where consistent monitoring is required, particularly with the forthcoming changes to grants, benefits and planning regulations. Overall, the council operates a joined-up and robust approach to affordable housing and the council officers work well between departments and have good working relationships with outside bodies. The report made six recommendations to cabinet, the outcomes and impact of the agreed recommendations will be reviewed by the committee during 2011/12.

2.4 Best practice town centre renewal

The committee set out to provide cabinet with a clear picture of what a successful development looks like based on a range of needs (updating infrastructure which is no longer fit for purpose), necessities (designing in safety for users) and ambitions (achieving a vision which is realistic).

In the event, following some initial research, the committee decided that it was not possible to define a manageable scope and agreed not to pursue the project.



2.5 Progress of the Committee's review work recommendations carried out in previous years.

The committee routinely manages progress of the agreed recommendations of its projects. The intention is to see that the policy in question is effective in achieving the outcomes intended from the work. In 2010/11 the committee received feedback from cabinet on its 2009/10 work and re-examined seven projects carried out between 2005 and 2008. The reports in question are listed in appendix A.

2.6 Process and procedural changes

The committee occasionally indulges in self scrutiny to ensure it is effective in what it does. This year members have closely examined the process of reviewing past reports and as a result have developed a revised procedure to improve the effectiveness of scrutiny through ongoing monitoring of the results of policy review work.

The purpose of policy review work is to assist the executive to improve services and service delivery. The outcome of a review, as defined at the start of each project, is the key issue to be assessed – essentially, have the improvements intended been achieved?

The revised process was used during the latter half of the year and has proved to be successful in its aims. The process will be commended to the new Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

2.7 Chair's commentary

When the committee first started to look at the topics selected for the year, we soon realised that the scoping process was vital to producing relevant and timely outcomes.

At the start of the topic of town centre renewal, it was evident that clear outcomes could not be determined without duplicating other work. The night time economy had already been reviewed in 2007/8 and the town centre was changing with the Colosseum and the Charter Place redevelopments. After reviewing initial research, we agreed to halt this scrutiny subject.

This process helped with other work carried out this year. It has enabled us to review past scrutiny reports in a structured and constructive way and ensured our scoping processes have led to focused and achievable pieces of work.

The review of the Economic Development Strategy was an opportunity to feed into this vital policy before it went to cabinet. This also served to highlight the value of scrutiny in reviewing a key strategy document to

cabinet and officers. The service which created the document had the full endorsement of the committee before it went to cabinet.

When we moved onto affordable housing, we met with planning officers, registered social landlords, housing officers and consulted research documents on best practices and changes to national housing policy. The final report will feed into council policy and practices and will have an effect on Watford residents.

The task group on services for the deceased did a good piece of work on helping set council policy and for setting out potential opportunities in the future. It also helped show the benefits of having a tight time schedule and a focused agenda.

I would like to thank all the committee members, officers and members of outside bodies for their feedback, information, expertise and time.

Councillor Kelly McLeod
Chair of Policy Development Scrutiny Committee



3. Call-in & Performance Scrutiny Committee

Membership

Councillor Rackett (Chair)

Councillor Grimston (Vice-Chair)

Councillors I Brown, Dhindsa, Greenslade, Hastrick, Leslie, Martins and Poole

3.1 The Committee's work programme for 2010/11

The Call-In & Performance Scrutiny Committee met on eight occasions during 2010/11. In 2008/9 the committee adopted a revised approach where in a new format it examined only one major and one minor topic per meeting. The committee continued with the same basic approach in 2010/11 but leaving space for issues which may crop up from time to time over the year. The review topics included in the programme were selected by the committee at its first meeting from a shortlist of topics nominated by members following consultation across the council and with external organisations with an interest in the council's activities.

One meeting this year was devoted to the examination of the work of external organisations; this was the performance of SLM, the council's leisure centre contractor. This is in recognition of the increasing importance of partnerships and the council's involvement with external organisations that provide public services. It is expected that the scrutiny of external organisations will increase in future years.

3.2 Work summary

3.2.1 Committee meetings

The committee examined in depth the performance of five areas of activity of the council and its partners:

- (i) Leisure centres and the performance of SLM
- (ii) Choice based lettings
- (iii) Alcohol licensing
- (iv) Elections processes
- (v) Economic development

Conclusions to the committee's discussions have been drafted into short reports and passed to portfolio holders, or other appropriate people, for information and/or action. The reports make general comments about overall performance, contain some specific recommendations for action and call for ongoing monitoring of areas of concern.

3.2.2 Performance management

The Committee has continued its work of reviewing quarterly performance reports (PIs) and commenting on the progress of projects and on performance measures/indicators although the regime has

changed this year because of the government's decision to greatly reduce the number of national PIs. A number of areas were noted to be of concern because of under performance or inconsistent performance; these were followed up with services heads.

With regard to next year, underperforming areas will be recommended to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for ongoing monitoring. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee may also care to review the content of reports and discuss with service heads the possibility of providing a comprehensive set of local PIs.

3.2.3 Task groups

The committee established three task groups during the year:

(i) The community safety partnership task group.

Councillors Martins (Chair), Grimston (Vice-Chair), Khan, Lovejoy, McLeod and Mortimer.

The task group met on four occasions and scrutinised the following topics.

- The community safety partnership's 2009/10 performance.

The task group concluded that the figures were generally heartening and moving in the right direction. Members selected the following areas for further attention –

The distorting effect that Central Ward had on the figures and the cost of policing this ward.

Housing ex-offenders.

Street drinkers and rough sleepers, is there adequate provision in the borough.

- Youth offending – an update on the group's conclusions from its meeting in November 2009.

The task group concluded that, overall, the message is positive, youth offending numbers are small and reducing, and this is supported by figures. Issues to monitor next year are the problems of drug related offences and the increase in female offenders.

- Dangerous dogs – current issues.

Some specific conclusions were –

Firmer council action is needed in response to dog on dog incidents, muzzling and leashing should be mandatory after a first offence.

Ability for council action beyond this is limited other than working with the local community and trying to educate the public about controlling their dogs. All of the legislation available is being used.

- Drug and alcohol abuse – an



update on the group's conclusions from its meeting in January 2010. The task group received replies from a range of agencies addressing problems highlighted at the January meeting. Members concluded that they were happy with the responses and the actions being taken.

- Crime statistics and related performance.

Members were concerned about their difficulty in interpreting the presented figures; the violent crime category for example covers a wide range of offences and can include statistics from GBH at one extreme to shouting abuse at the other. If the Police receive a complaint they are obliged to make a record, no matter how trivial, and this will be reported in the crime statistics.

Looking at quarterly figures posted on the website is not always useful and year on year figures can also be distorting. To be most informative current figures should be looked at in conjunction with trends over a number of years. It was agreed that the task group will invite an analyst from the Police to take them through the available information and construct sets of information to meet its needs. It was also agreed that the meeting will be open to all members of the council.

- Stop and search.

The task group recommended that future crime statistic reports contain -

- a breakdown of the ethnicity of people stopped and searched in Central ward
- a breakdown of the ethnicity of people stopped and searched in all other wards
- numbers of people stopped and searched from outside the borough
- a breakdown of offences in Central ward
- a breakdown of offences in all other wards
- crime by type in Central ward
- crime by type in all other wards.

- Neighbourhood Watch.

Members noted that Neighbourhood Watch now has new parameters; the Police want to ensure that all participants are fully engaged in the new minimum standards. To ensure proper buy-in the approach is steady, the target is to generate one new scheme each quarter.

Progress of the role out and impact of the new scheme is to be followed up by the task group.



- Relationships between the Police and minority communities.
The task group concluded that In Watford the Police generally have good relationships with minority groups and work to maintain them. Relationships with the Asian community are fair at present but do fluctuate. The position requires to be monitored.

- Policing the town centre

The task group concluded:

- o The approach of working towards a family-friendly image is to be commended.
- o The council has limited ability to increase licence fees but this may be changing. A review of charges is recommended if the opportunity arises.
- o Whilst part of the strategy to reduce crime and disorder, the taxi marshals' activities give some cause for concern and need to be monitored.
- o Support for doormen is in need of more work.
- o Members of the 2011/12 community safety task group (or its successor) should make a night time visit to the town centre to observe the problems and solutions at first hand.
- o Unreported crime in the context of crime statistics is of concern to members. It is recommended that the 2011/12 community safety task group undertakes a review of this issue in conjunction with the review of statistics.

- (ii) To review the council's support for the voluntary sector
Councillors Johnson (Chair) Dhindsa, Greenslade and Rackett.

The task group concluded the following –

The term 'voluntary sector' is widely applied when describing the range of organisations that apply to the council for grant aid.

Applicants include organisations that provide for –

- social needs (such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and Age UK)
- community groups (such as the Multi Cultural Community Centre)
- umbrella support (such as the Council for Voluntary Services)
- art and culture (such as the Palace Theatre).

The three 'pots' of grant aid available are designed to provide opportunities for all voluntary sector organisations to seek financial support from the council, regardless of their size or status. The process and procedure for making grant awards is well prescribed and easy to follow. The council provides a good level of information on the process and supports grant applicants in making their bids, as does the Council for Voluntary Services (CVS). However, it appears that some organisations bidding for three year funding have misunderstandings

about their status and chances of success. This is an area where the council needs to be clearer. Further, the balance between new and established organisations may be an issue which needs reviewing; there should be more opportunities for new organisations and new projects.

The council should be clearer in the messages it gives to prospective bidders. In its willingness to make grants as available and open as possible the council attracts many organisations which will struggle to achieve any degree of success. The council should be more explicit about the type of organisation or project it wishes to support so as not to raise unrealisable expectations.

Grants budgets are likely to reduce in the foreseeable future. The council is currently working to reduce dependency but more could be done in developing strategies to achieve this.

The CVS should be encouraged and supported in its initiatives to assist voluntary sector organisations to improve their business planning and develop social enterprises.

Members made eight recommendations, six to cabinet and two to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Progress will be followed up in 2011/12.

- (iii) To review the Neighbourhood Forums and their performance since being introduced in 2008
Councillors Greenslade (Chair) J Brown, Johnson, McLeod, Meerabux and Watkin

The task group found that –

- Neighbourhood Forums are engaging with residents and offer value for money but because of the nature of projects this is difficult to quantify.
- Wards in Watford are not homogenous and it is clear that when it comes to community engagement one size does not fit all. The flexible system that is in place allows members to engage with residents in the most appropriate way.
- There is a strong consensus that Neighbourhood Forums are a significant improvement on Area Committees as they allow for more flexibility.
- Areas for improvement include publicity and the protocol for working with officers. There is potential for future development by extending the partnership working undertaken by ward members.



The task group made eleven recommendations which are to be considered first by Constitution Working Party and then by council.

3.2.4 Call-in of decisions.

There were no decisions called-in during 2010/11.

3.3 Comment on process

The committee built on the revised process adopted in 2008/9 which was to reduce the number of items considered at each meeting to allow guests more time to present their subjects and for members to have a fuller discussion of issues. This year, members deferred discussion of conclusions to a following meeting thus taking time to reflect on their conclusions and for officers to summarise evidence in a written report. It is considered that this approach has, over the year, produced better conclusions and is to be recommended for future performance reviews.

3.4 Pre meetings

Instituted to provide time for members to agree issues and plan their approach and for some informal training. Pre meetings are considered to be useful by officers but didn't work well for members because of poor attendance. Overview & Scrutiny should consider using these next year but in the context of the new structure.

3.5 Chair's commentary

It has been a year of change for the committee and we have attempted to involve all members, at one time or other, in the preparation of scrutiny items. The full committee has also spent a little more time on individual themes and rather than agreeing the recommendations on the same night as hearing the evidence, had some time for consideration and further clarification. We hope that this has led to more rounded conclusions.

Amongst our activities has been a look at the elections process, the management of leisure centres, choice based lettings, local economic policy and licensing enforcement and we hope that our insight will lead to improvements in all these areas. In addition a task group looked at the voluntary sector.

A working and credible scrutiny process is vital to local democracy and is the way the executive can be held accountable. I would like to thank all those that gave evidence or contributed to our work. Not least I would like to thank the Council's outgoing Scrutiny Manager, Mike Thomas for his invaluable support throughout the year.

Councillor Steve Rackett
Chair of Call-in and Performance Scrutiny Committee

4. The Budget Panel

Membership

Councillor Mortimer (Chair)

Councillor Bell (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Derbyshire, Greenslade, Martins, Poole and Watkin

4.1 The panel's work programme for 2010/11

The panel met on eight occasions during 2010/11. Aside from its core work of scrutinising the council's budget proposals the panel also looked at value for money and monitored budget spending through periodic reports.

At its eight meetings the panel:

- Looked at the medium term financial strategy, the panel noted the projections of savings required and asked for report on how they will be achieved at a later date.
- Considered the asset management plan and capital strategy, their purpose and how well they meet the council's needs.
- Scrutinised spending against budget through the monthly monitoring report to determine whether income and spending are in line with plans and whether profiled expenditure is accurately managed.
- Examined the savings headlines for 2008/09 and how the council performed against forecast.
- Worked with officers on Value for Money (VfM) investigations relating to fees and charges, trade waste and planning and enforcement. Points for consideration were, how do Watford's services compare with other local authorities in terms of quantity and quality and does the borough need to take any action to reduce costs or improve standards? This area of scrutiny did not progress as planned because the panel modified its programme to accommodate discussion of service prioritisation. It is proposed that VfM will feature in next year's work programme.
- Looked at growth and savings projected for 2010/11 and considered whether savings are being realised and if growth in line with plans. The panel noted a satisfactory position.
- Scrutinised fees and charges for 2010/11.
- Scrutinised the draft budget proposals and draft revenues and capital estimates for 2010/11 at its December meeting and the final revenue and capital budgets in January.
- Considered the outcome of public consultation on the 2011/12 budget.

4.2 Review of work carried out in 2010/11

At the end of each year panel members and support officers indulge in a spot of navel gazing to review their performance and consider issues and topics for scrutiny in the following year. This year members concluded –

The view of panel members, supported by comments received from officers and other members, is that the panel works well and has continued to develop. This development can be attributed to well informed members and good support from officers. Member attendance has been high and members have shown a high level of interest in the subject matter.

The panel welcomes the support of the cabinet member. Conclusions from panel meetings have been taken to cabinet and many taken up by cabinet.

The early reports on service prioritisation received by the panel provided a useful introduction to the consideration of budget proposals. There were good outcomes from the services prioritisation work. The concept of zero-based budgeting which emerged as part of service prioritisation should be considered as a standard format for all services.

Value for money (VfM) is an important issue and should be considered by all services when setting budgets. The Budget Panel should include VfM as a priority item in its 2011/12 work programme.

This year savings have been concentrated on reducing central support costs and this has been effective. In 2011/12 the panel should examine ideas for economies in front line services.

4.3 Training

Training was informative and useful to panel members in their scrutiny role. However, the attendance of other members who are not on the Budget Panel was poor and this is disappointing. The timing of training sessions may be an issue and sessions next year will be included in the main agenda. It will be suggested that the training programme for the year is included in the members' bulletin and the council consider providing on-line finance training.

It is recommended that training continues routinely in 2011/12.



4.4 Chair's/Vice Chair's commentary

This year's Budget Panel work has been dominated not surprisingly by "service prioritisation" and the efforts made by Heads of Service and the Director of Finance in conjunction with the Managing Director to be as transparent as possible with the financial options available to the Council at this time of national economic problems.

We had 3-Part B meetings where members were free to express views "off the record" taking into account the advice given by Bernard Clarke.

It was the most rigorous examination of the individual spending plans since I have been on the Budget panel and I think all members would agree that it was an effective exercise.

While we can always learn more how to be more effective at scrutinising the Budget process (and we have improved steadily over the last three or four years) this year has been a good example.

Sadly, value for money work has suffered, but we hope that this will be rectified in the new council year.

We have had regular updates from Bernard on the finance digest and the medium term financial strategy as finances changed throughout the year.

We pay tribute to Bernard for his excellent preparation, especially this year his clear explanation of the comprehensive spending review, and other officers who have provided reports and help throughout this difficult year.

Finally a particular mention to Mike Thomas for his valued and vital work over the last five years and we wish him all the best in the future.

Councillors Andrew Mortimer and Nigel Bell
Chair and Vice-Chair, Budget Panel



5. Development work

In 2010/11 the following development work was undertaken or started.

5.1 Scrutiny survey

The Partnerships and Performance Section annually undertakes a survey of the people and organisations that have had business with scrutiny during the preceding year. This includes councillors, officers and members of the public who have attended as guests and witnesses. This year's survey is intended to provide a benchmark against which views of the new scrutiny structure can be measured.

Survey of councillors

Of the 37 councillors (including the Mayor) in Watford Borough Council, 21 completed the survey. The results of the survey showed that:

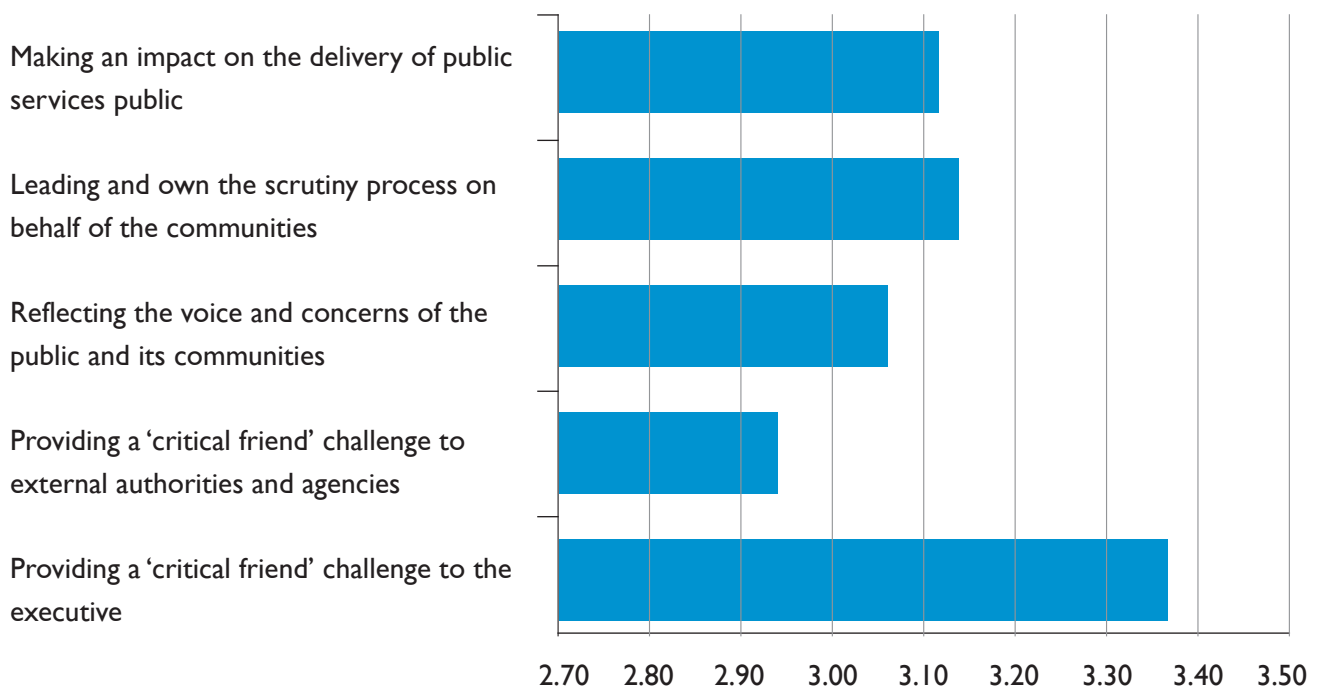
Of the respondents who are not currently scrutiny members the main reason for this is that they do not have the time.

Of the 14 current scrutiny members who responded 12 would 'very likely' or 'probably' continue to participate in scrutiny in 2011/12.

Members were also asked to rate how effective they felt different aspects of the scrutiny work was in the five key areas identified by the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

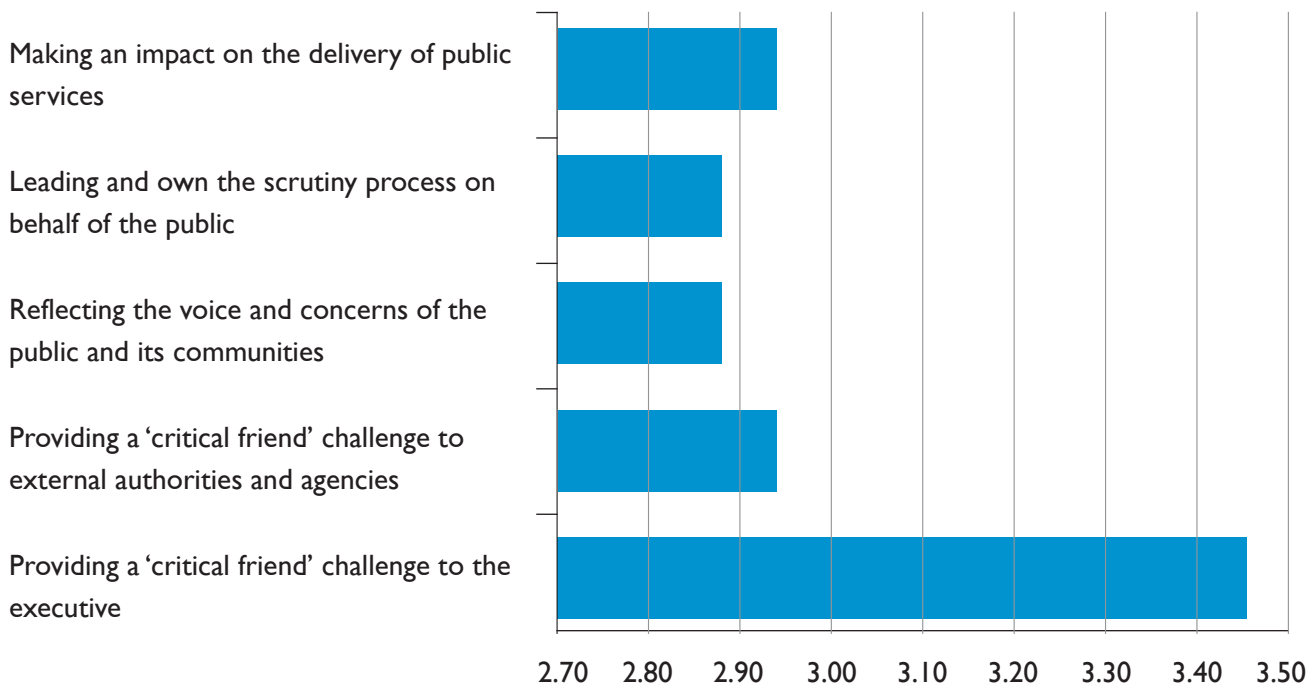
The first graph below shows the average rating for each aspect for the policy development role of scrutiny, primarily carried out by the **policy development** scrutiny committee in 2010/11. The scores are out of 5 with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest.

Scrutiny- councillors' opinion survey 2011



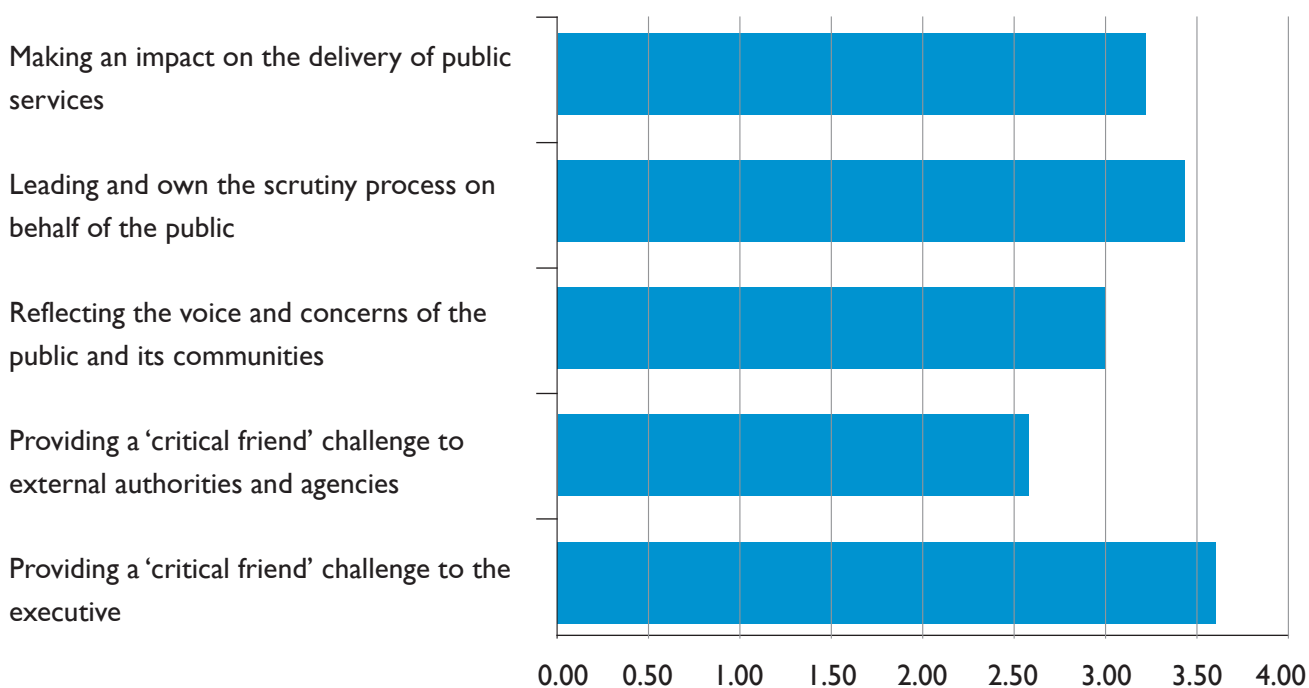
The second graph shows the average rating for each aspect for the **performance management** role of scrutiny, primarily carried out by the call-in and performance scrutiny committee in 2010/11. The scores are out of 5 with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest.

Scrutiny- councillors' opinion survey 2011



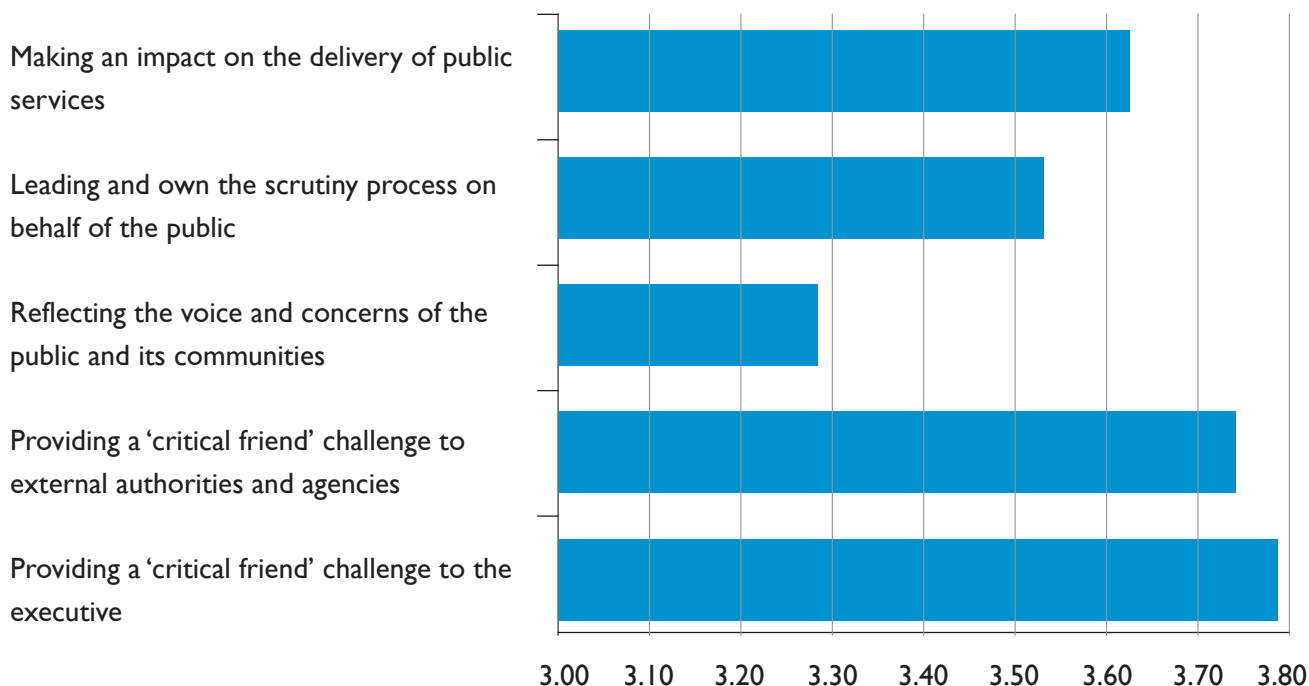
The third graph shows the average rating for each aspect for the **budget and finance** role of scrutiny, primarily carried out by the budget panel in 2010/11. The scores are out of 5 with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest.

Scrutiny- councillors' opinion survey 2011



The fourth graph shows the average rating for each aspect for the **taskgroups**. The scores are out of 5 with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest.

Scrutiny- councillors' opinion survey 2011



Seventeen of the members had proposed topics for scrutiny, all of the suggestions were taken forward and 88% of members were satisfied with the final outcome.

When asked how scrutiny could be improved many members referred to the forthcoming changes which are designed to address issues in the system and ensure more members are involved.

Survey of officers

This survey, similar to the members' survey, was completed by four officers. The survey showed that 75% of officers felt that they understood their role and were fully engaged.

The levels of demand on officers made by scrutiny varies significantly between services. One officer felt it was demanding, two felt it was manageable and one felt it was minimal. One officer felt that there had been a large number of complex reviews which had had a disproportionate impact on one service. Another officer commented that on occasions a clear reasoning for undertaking the reviews needed to be established beforehand.

Three officers had suggested a topic for scrutiny, all the suggestions were taken up and all the officers were satisfied with the outcome.

When asked how scrutiny could be improved officers suggested that fewer

topics should be tackled and this would eliminate requests to scrutinise a topic when a briefing would be more appropriate. They also suggested that a programme of scrutiny work should be prepared each year in discussion with service heads, scrutiny officers and members.

Survey of members of the public

This survey was completed by 11 people who had been guests and witnesses at the scrutiny committees and taskgroups.

When asked if they had been well briefed prior to attending a committee four responded 'yes' and three responded 'somewhat'. Five respondents felt they understood the purpose of the meeting and four felt they understood to some extent. Two of the nine people who attended a committee felt that there was not a welcoming atmosphere.

When asked to provide any other comments one person felt that their organisation was being scrutinised rather than the council process they were giving evidence about. Others felt that the chairs of the meeting did not stick to the meeting structure set out in the brief, which meant the witnesses were not able to provide the information they had intended. Finally, it was felt that sometimes members did not have a lot of background knowledge and the scope of the review was too broad.

5.2 Hertfordshire Scrutiny Network

The group meets four or five times a year. Members discuss matters of mutual interest, share information, look at scrutiny developments nationally and consider how member councils can work together. Member councils routinely share work programmes and related information and undertake joint training.

Other matters discussed at meetings this year have been concerned with scrutiny support arrangements and budgets (achieving effective scrutiny with less resource), post election implications, the local authorities overview and scrutiny bill and shared services.

5.3 Cabinet/scrutiny meetings

The aim of this group is to improve communications and provide a forum for ongoing dialogue between scrutiny and the executive.

This group met three times in 2010/11 the items discussed were:

- scrutiny work plans and programmes
- the results of the scrutiny survey and scrutiny performance
- scrutiny training for all members
- scrutiny work progress
- scrutiny review and restructure and related processes.

Three meetings are to be programmed in 2011/12.

2010/11 Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs

Councillors Kelly McLeod and Mark Watkin
Chair and Vice-Chair of Policy Development Scrutiny Committee

Councillors Steve Rackett and Amanda Grimston
Chair and Vice-Chair of Call-in & Performance Scrutiny Committee

Councillors Andrew Mortimer and Nigel Bell
Chair and Vice-Chair of Budget Panel

Appendix A

Policy scrutiny committee project progress review reports

The Development committee received formal feedback from cabinet in respect of work undertaken in 2009/10.

1. South west Herts transport strategy review
2. Equalities review

The Committee tracked the progress of recommendations of seven projects agreed by Cabinet between 2005 and 2008.

1. Services for older people review (08/09)
2. Community cohesion review (05/06)
3. Public pride review (08/09)
4. Obesity review (08/09)
5. Sustainable development review (06/07)
6. Area Committee review (07/08)
7. Art & sport development review (task group) (07/08)

If English is not your first language we can arrange for an interpreter, Please indicate which language you require.

Urdu:

اگر انگریزی آپ کی بول چال کی زبان نہیں ہے،
تو ہم آپ کے لیے ایک انٹریپرٹ (زبانی ترجمہ کار)
کا اہتمام کر سکتے ہیں۔ برائے مہربانی ہمیں یہ
بتائیں کہ آپ کی مطلوبہ زبان کون سی ہے۔

Hindi:

यदि इंग्लिश आपकी मुख्य भाषा
नहीं है तो हम एक इंटरप्रिटर
(दुभाषिए) का प्रबंध कर सकते
हैं। कृपया अपनी जरूरत की
भाषा बताएँ।

Gujarati:

જો ઈંગ્લિશ તમારી માતૃભાષા ન હોય
તો અમે તમારા માટે દુભાષિયાની
વ્યવસ્થા કરી શકીશું. તમે કઈ ભાષામાં
વાત કરવા માંગશો તે ભાષાનું નામ
દર્શાવવા વિનંતી.

Bengali:

ইংরেজি আপনার মাতৃভাষা না হলে,
আমরা আপনার জন্য একজন
দোভাষী (ইন্টারপ্রিটার) এর ব্যবস্থা
করতে পারবো। দয়া করে বলে
দিন, কোন্ ভাষার দোভাষী বা
ইন্টারপ্রিটার আপনার দরকার।

Polish:

Watford Borough Council ch tnie dostarczy ustne
tłumaczenie dla Ciebie

