

SUBJECT:	SCRUTINY SELF EVALUATION REVIEW
DIRECTORATE:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK
REPORT AUTHOR:	CHERYL EVANS, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND ELECTIONS MANAGER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an opportunity to self-evaluate and review its scrutiny effectiveness.

2. Background

- 2.1 An Internal Audit was carried out on Governance Health Check in July 2024. The audit had given substantial assurance, as there are good governance arrangements in place at the City of Lincoln Council, with only a few improvements identified. One of the recommendations was to carry out a review of the Council's scrutiny effectiveness which this report aims to address.
- 2.2 The audit recognised that scrutiny is an important part of the Governance structure, and it was therefore essential that the Council's scrutiny committees are effective, and that this is demonstrated. To evidence this good practice, a self-assessment should be used with the results feeding into the Scrutiny Annual Report.

3. Scrutiny Evaluation Process

- 3.1 The Centre for Public Scrutiny has produced a guidance document (attached at Appendix A) which provides advice on self-assessment as well as recommendations on good practice.
- 3.2 A review of scrutiny effectiveness should be led by scrutiny councillors, and the outcomes of those reviews be driven by what scrutiny members have concluded for their individual committee.
- 3.3 The first stage in the process will be to hold an informal roundtable discussion with a working group of up to five Scrutiny Committee members. The group should consist of the Chair of the Committee, and preferably at least one member from a non-controlling group. For Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee, one member from the Lincoln Tenants Panel can be appointed.
- 3.4 At this meeting, the group will discuss, consider and complete a self-assessment matrix (attached at Appendix B) with support from Democratic Services which will consider the current scrutiny process, and highlight strengths and weaknesses.

- 3.5 The second stage is for the working group to share and discuss the findings with the full scrutiny committee, inviting members to comment and reflect on the results and any recommendations identified during the process.
- 3.6 Any recommendations highlighted which affect the wider scrutiny function will be considered separately once all committees have completed their own self-assessment.

4. Strategic Priorities

Ensuring that the Council has effective scrutiny arrangements in place to support decision making is a key part of the Council's overall governance framework.

5. Organisational Impacts

5.1 Finance

There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report.

5.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

The review of effectiveness ensures best practice is met.

5.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

Due to the nature of this report there are no direct equality, diversity or human rights implications.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 That the Committee select a group of up to five councillors to attend a roundtable discussion (date to be confirmed) to complete the document for presentation at the 12 August 2025 meeting of Policy Scrutiny Committee. The group should contain the Chair of the Committee and preferably at least one member from a non-controlling group.

Is this a key decision? No

Do the exempt information categories apply? No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply? No

How many appendices does the report contain? Two

List of Background Papers: None

Lead Officer: Cheryl Evans, Democratic Services and
Elections Manager
Email: cheryl.evans@lincoln.gov.uk