

Wiltshire Council

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

25 May 2021

Review of the Overview and Scrutiny Councillor Induction 2021

Purpose

1. To invite the Committee's feedback on the Overview and Scrutiny (OS) sessions held on 17 May and 24 May as part of the council's post-election councillor induction and development programme.

Main considerations

2. Following the local elections in May, the council provided several weeks of information and training sessions to help equip elected councillors to undertake their role. Two sessions were provided on OS, aimed primarily at non-executive councillors:

Session 1: Overview and Scrutiny: Your role as a non-executive councillor (17 May)

- What is Overview and Scrutiny?
- Legislative and constitutional basis
- Why is Overview and Scrutiny important?
- What does good Overview and Scrutiny look like?
- Your role as a non-executive councillor

Session 2: Overview and Scrutiny at Wiltshire Council: Making a difference (24 May)

- How OS works at Wiltshire Council
 - How you can make a difference through OS
 - How to influence the OS work programme
 - OS committees, task groups, rapid scrutiny exercises and project board reps
 - Officer support
3. Councillor feedback on the induction and development programme in general will be invited at its conclusion. Management Committee's views are specifically sought here as the Committee holds responsibility for the OS function, including OS member learning and development.

4. Under previous councils, OS has agreed structured learning and development programmes addressing OS-specific skills such as questioning and listening skills, chairing OS meetings and gathering and analysing evidence. The Committee may wish to begin suggesting OS workshop topics and ask the Chair and Vice-chair to explore these further.

Proposals

5. To provide any feedback on the OS information sessions provided as part of the 2021 councillor induction and development programme.
6. To suggest any ideas for further OS councillor training sessions, with the Chair and Vice-chair bringing specific proposals back to Committee.

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