Scrutiny Committee

Work Programme Planning

"Effective work programming is the bedrock of an effective scrutiny function"

Centre For Public Scrutiny, The Good Scrutiny Guide
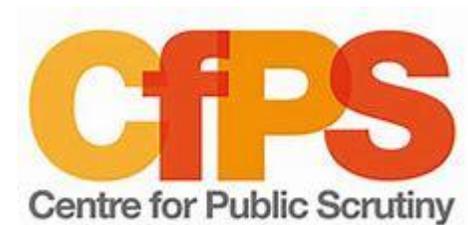
A clear role and function

- Scrutiny works best when it has a clear role and defined impact on the ground. Be clear about what want to achieve.

- Always ask 'where does Scrutiny add value'?

- Prioritisation - trying to keep a watching brief over everything is impossible.

- ACTIVE – and proactive rather than reactive.

- Applying focus **does not mean** some things are off limits.

Impact

- Environment for Scrutiny is paramount to enable **meaningful impact**.

- Making effective, **high quality recommendations** and understanding how recommendations **make a difference to local people's** lives.

- Know what you are trying to **achieve**.

- Consider **long-term outcomes** as well as **short-term impact.**

- Consider the impact of **predictability.**

- Tackle issues where can add most value – through **unique perspective of members.**

How to – Work Programme

- **Public**: give the public a stake in the scrutiny process, with means to influence the work programme – Member conversations, public engagement

- **Partners**: consider reaching out directly

- The **executive**: cannot direct scrutiny's work, but may help us understand how to influence the wider authorities work

- Other **sources**
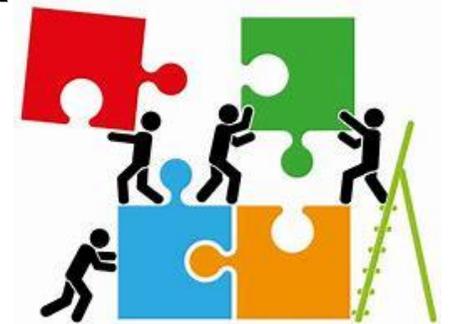
Shortlisting/prioritisation

Accountability – be able to justify how and why a decision has been taken to include issues

Transparency – over the way the work programme is developed - will ensure a positive culture about scrutiny

Shortlisting should reflect scrutiny's overall role, possibly considering:

- What benefits would scrutiny bring?
- Is the issue of concern to/have potential impact for the community?
- Is the issue strategic, significant and something we are able to influence?
- Are adequate resources and time available?
- What would be the best outcome of this work?
- How would this work engage stakeholders and local community?
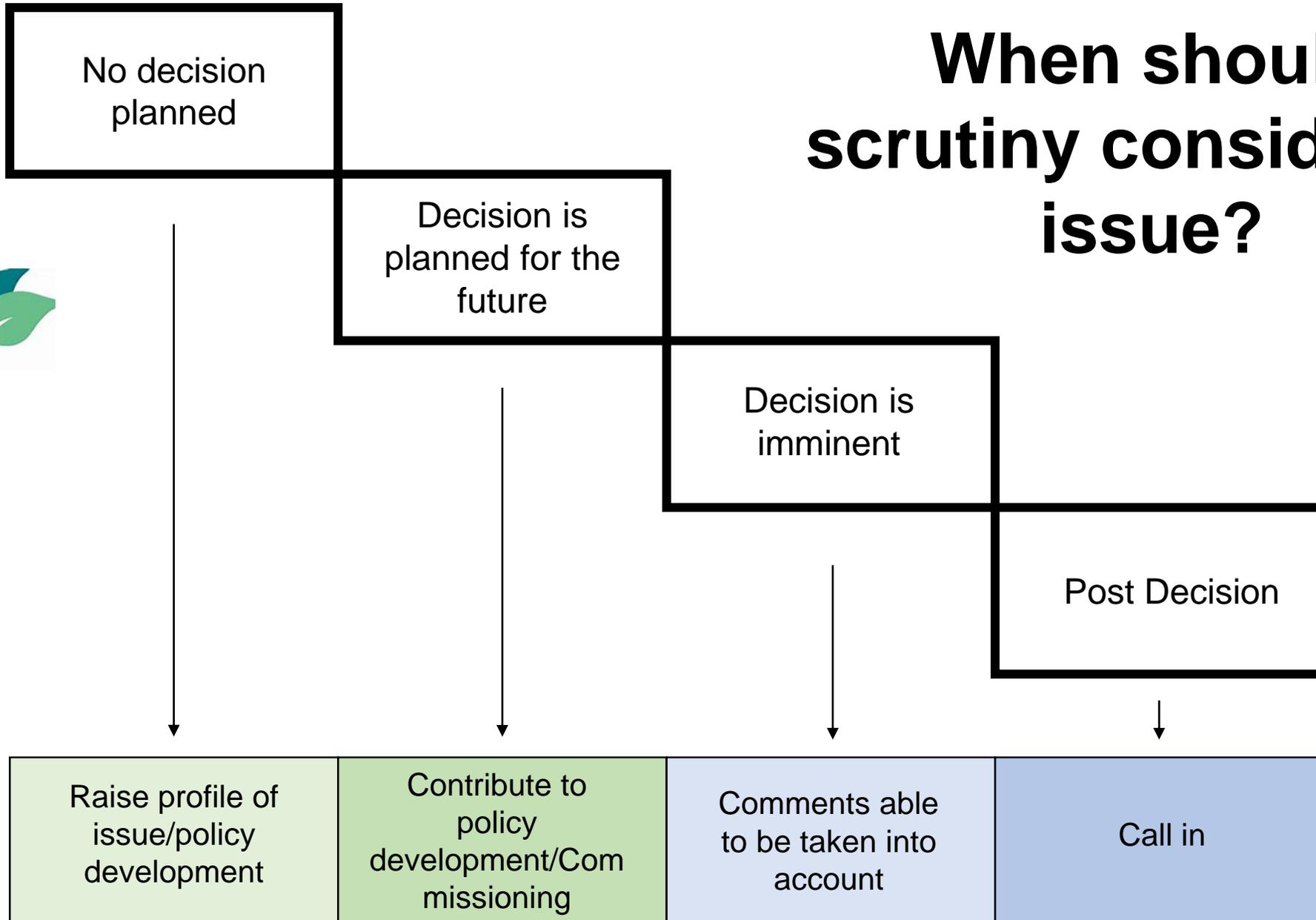
Work Programme – DCC consideration criteria

- Whether the issue is in the public interest
- Is there a change to National Policy?
- Does it affect people across Devon?
- Are there performance or risk concerns?
- Is it a safety issue?
- Are people concerned about it?
- Can scrutiny add value by looking at it?
- Is it ACTIVE?

What are other SW Councils looking at?

Council		
Devon County Council	• Young carers • Children's centres • Support for Autism across Devon • Mental health and wellbeing • Urgent care	• Food waste • Problem gambling • Food banks and root causes • DCC gender pay gap • Universal credit and welfare reform
East Devon District Council	• Fly tipping • South West Water capacity	• Primary Care network
Teignbridge District Council	• Electric and low emission vehicle policy	• Fairtrade – how Council can increase sales
South Hams District Council	• Food Safety Service • Waste procurement	• IT resilience
West Devon Borough Council	• Community Housing	• Transport Corridor
Torridge District Council	• Licencing of caravan sites • Fuel Poverty • Pharmacies	• South West Water overflow issues • Water quality • CAB
Exeter City Council	• Skills strategy • Modern Slavery Transparency Statement	• Exeter Live Better Move More physical activity strategy

Questions

- Are you happy to carry out public engagement? Over what period of time?

- What are the principles by which we want to guide selection of topics? Do you agree with the suggested ones?

- How often re-visit work programme? Annual planning session (now), revisited quarterly? But with enough flexibility to add an item at any time through proposal form?

- Agree to have a session on the 'what' to include in the Work Programme?