

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Member Scrutiny

A summary of our approach to Member Scrutiny

Background

1. In 2011 Members agreed to the current direction on scrutiny with a focus on micro scrutiny and value for money reviews. This was recognising:
 - work programmes of managers had been re-prioritised to cope with the changing and challenging financial demands on the Authority
 - The Audit Resources and Performance Committee Chair and Vice Chair at that time had asked for a programme of value for money (vfm) reviews
 - Members had progressed a successful micro scrutiny
 - There was not the capacity both to support a programme of vfm reviews and support formal full scrutiny reviews
 - Other improvement work was in progress following the recommendations of the National Park Authority Performance Assessment process

Suggestions for Member Scrutiny

2. Any member can make a suggestion for a micro or full scrutiny in the following ways:
 - a) By asking in committee for a micro scrutiny as part of considering an issue in committee. (NB Reports to committees are not necessarily 'single topic' reports and include reports which cover all the Authority's services and business e.g. the performance and business plan, audit reports, the quarterly performance reports and other performance reports/reviews). (Standing Order provision)
 - b) By asking the Chief Executive or relevant Director to include it as an item of business on the agenda and to write a report on the matter. Members need to consult with the appropriate Chair before making such a request (see 4 below). (Member officer protocol provision)
 - c) By giving notice in writing at least three days before an Authority Meeting asking the Chair of any Committee or Sub-Committee a question on any matter in relation to which the Authority has powers or duties or which affects the Peak District National Park. (Standing Order provision)
3. Although there is now a focus on micro scrutiny the flow chart giving the process for full formal scrutiny topics has been updated to reflect how a member can suggest a topic for a full scrutiny. The updated flowcharts for a micro scrutiny and a full formal scrutiny are attached for your information.

4. If a member approaches the relevant Chair with a suggestion the Chair will evaluate with the member the topic suggested against the questions/tests we have agreed as part of our scrutiny process. These include:

- a) Does the issue relate to a significant corporate area e.g. a performance improvement plan, National Park Management Plan or corporate plan?
- b) Is there a significant performance issue evidenced by data, auditor's report or customer feedback?
- c) Does that performance issue relate to poor performance or risks related to high achievement?
- d) Is there a need for the voice of the communities to be heard?

In addition to the above 'tests' the Chair will also ask if there is sufficient weight of support from other members for the topic proposed and will discuss capacity and priorities with the relevant Director /Chief Executive.

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