



North
Tyneside
Council

Centre for Governance & Scrutiny – Improvement Review

Helpful Points for Work Programming

What were the CfGS review objectives?

- Intended to advise the Council on
 - Strengthening the quality of scrutiny activities
 - Increasing the impact of scrutiny outputs
 - Developing a strong and shared understanding of the role and capability of the scrutiny function

Some points to bear in mind...

- The purpose of scrutiny in local government
 - Hold the Executive to account, and scrutinise service delivery (is it working?)
 - Contribute to policy development – strategic issues
 - Contribute to improved decision-making
 - Channel the voice of the public

Changes already made

- Reviewed our Committee structure
- Identified lead Cabinet members and link Directors to provide focused information and policy context
- Each Committee has developed a 'long list' of possible topics
- All Committee members invited to contribute to work planning

What else is needed?

- Prioritisation of topics (focus on strategy) – where can Scrutiny make an impact?
- Remember that 'less is more'
- Setting objectives (what do we want to achieve?)
- Facilitating information ahead of time, so committee meetings are not solely focused on providing information
- Decide how we want our scrutiny function to be – how best do we add value? How do we check we've met our own objectives?