



APPENDIX 3

Democracy Commission Recommendation Proposals – Update

Key

	Actioned/In progress
	In development
	Longer term

Recommendation	Current Position	Rating
(i) Improvements to enhance and improve pre-decision scrutiny to include reviewing the current scrutiny panels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of panels Actioned <p>Report to CGA and Annual Council for approval 12th May 2023 and 24th May 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced Scrutiny training Actioned <p>Programme in place for municipal year 23/24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consequential updates to O & S Procedure rules (constitution) 	
(ii) Clear guidance as far as reasonably practicable in defining pre-decision scrutiny and associated timelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-decision protocol and agreed approach Actioned - Work ongoing Wider communication 	

		and website updates/briefings (TBC once approved)	
(iii)	Annual training and work programme briefings provided to all Members of the Council's Scrutiny Panels.	<p>Programme developed and enhanced to include for lead members</p> <p>Actioned – in place from May/Jun 23</p> <p>Digital training offer</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>Ongoing - longer term</p>
(iv)	Providing clear information to Members and officers on the benefits of pre decision scrutiny and to ensure there is an understanding of the requirements to engage in early pre-decision scrutiny to enhance good decision making	Actioned – see above	
3.	The Commission recognises that good scrutiny and decision making relies on the provision of transparent, accessible information in a timely manner and supports the development of sharing information to raise awareness, increase understanding of and ensure clarity for Members and Officers around scrutiny, Access to Information Rules and the sharing of information.	Ongoing	
4.	That Cabinet be requested to explore increasing dialogue on key strategic issues with Members to increase transparency and explore developing both formal and informal engagement with Members.	Ongoing	
5.	That consultation be undertaken with Group Business Managers and Members, to identify any potential barriers preventing some Members being appointed to Committees/Panels such as timing, frequency, location, format of meetings and any actions appropriately co-ordinated.	<p>In development</p> <p>TBC Summer 23</p>	

<p>6. That information be communicated to all Members (across different roles) in relation to engagement with the decision-making process, including access to information rules, scrutiny, raising a notice of concern, speaking and questioning rights at committees.</p>	<p>In development</p>	
<p>7. That work is considered to explore enhancing training and development for Councillors to help understand and carry out their roles.</p>	<p>Training being developed within governance and scrutiny to address areas outlined above</p> <p>Actioned – in place May/June 2023</p>	