

Verbatim comments from members

7. Please give examples of where the Commission and/or Panels have had a demonstrable impact (other than on Cabinet decision-making):

- Climate change debate
- Improved scrutiny of contractors
- I cannot think of a single example

9. In what ways do you think the Commission/Panel business might be better organised?

- At the moment the chairs of the panels and the chair of the OSC is in the gift of the administration (or at best, the administration group). This does not make for effective scrutiny of administration decisions, and it means that in most instances only the pre-agreed/approved recommendations have a chance of passing.
- Reports need to improve; poorly presented, often late, lack suitable information, objectives and data.

12: Please use this box to provide any comments on the support offered by the scrutiny team.

I would like to thank the scrutiny officers for helping us with our desire to ensure scrutiny still happens and for putting up with long meetings of SC and OSC.

12b: What best practice could we sustain from our pandemic experience and response?

- That Panels can meet remotely, rather than be cancelled (ostensibly the cancellation of the Panels was to preserve officer time, but I believe the panels could have been sensible about agendas)
- Remote meetings have facilitated, in certain cases, greater involvement from the public which could be sustained in the long-term with a mixture of meeting in-person and virtual meetings / task group meetings to enable wider participation.
- Virtual meetings must continue to be an option going forward.
- The use of video technology and remote meetings enables attendance when people cannot be physically present in the Civic Centre.

13: Please use this box for any further comments/suggestions you have about the overview and scrutiny function, including how it can be improved.

- It is quickly becoming overtly party political so people can impress on social media. I suggest you consider moving it to no longer being broadcast.
- The scrutiny function is completely ineffective, largely because of the lack of engagement and command of the issues by councillors. Cabinet completely disregards the scrutiny process and there seem to be no consequences other than bad unscrutinised policy being formed.
- The Chair of the OSC should rotate frequently.