

Minutes of the Improving Scrutiny Task and Finish Group

Wednesday, 24 July 2024 at 7.00 pm

In attendance: Councillors Mark Jackson, Mark Ingleby and James Rathbone

Also joining the meeting virtually: Councillor Sian Eiles

Apologies: Councillors Aliya Sheikh

Also present: Timothy Andrew (Scrutiny Manager)

NB: Those Councillors listed as joining virtually were not in attendance for the purposes of the meeting being quorate, any decisions taken or to satisfy the requirements of s85 Local Government Act 1972

1. Declarations of interest

1.1 There were none.

2. Task and Finish Group final report

2.1 Cllr Mark Jackson introduced the final report of the Task and Finish Group – outlining the key elements of the evidence gathering process and noting the principles of effective scrutiny.

2.2 The Group discussed the final report and recommendations - the following key points were noted:

- It was recognised that many of the things that had been identified as good practice were already within the remit of scrutiny members to adopt and implement.
- Members noted the importance of the annual scrutiny summit for aligning scrutiny resources with Council priorities.
- The importance of public engagement with scrutiny.
- The good practice already taking place in Lewisham – and the importance of highlighting this – as well as standardising practice across the whole scrutiny function.
- That the further alignment of scrutiny committees' terms of reference with the structure of the Council should be welcomed.
- That scrutiny should remain flexible and adapt to changing circumstances.
- That a standardised process for tracking recommendations and actions would be appreciated by all members.

2.3 **Resolved:** that the final report and recommendations be agreed – for submission to Mayor and Cabinet.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

3.1 **Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2023 be agreed as an accurate record.

The meeting ended at 7.25 pm

Chair:

Date:
