



Centre for Public Scrutiny

Scrutiny in a changing local government landscape

APSE, 16 March 2016



Fit for the future

Now?

- Focused on in-house delivery
- Minimal partner/ supplier interaction
- Transformation as a one-off
- Experience rather than evidence led
- Traditional committee approaches
- Political battlegrounds

Future?

- Outcome-focused, whoever is delivering
- Bridge between leaders and citizens/ communities
- Essential democratic check and balance
- More agile and creative
- Adapting to new landscapes
- Politically pragmatic

Scrutiny Survey results 2015

- 75% reported that scrutiny is seen as highly flexible and responsive
- 80% of councils are planning major transformation:
 - 19% say scrutiny will be heavily involved
 - 22% say there will be limited to no scrutiny involvement
- 36% said scrutiny won't be involved in major changes in the future
- 18% said scrutiny not able to expose wrongdoing or poor decision-making

The reasons why...

Our survey says...

- A lack of leadership buy-in and support
- A lack of understanding of the value of scrutiny and the role it plays
- The political dynamics impacting on how scrutiny is used
- The need to make 'quick' decisions to achieve financial savings

What we also know...

- Not focused on organisation priorities
- Too parochial, poor questioning
- Too slow, don't recognise scale of challenges or complexities
- Too much focus on formal procurement and contract mgt
- Gives away political advantage

**Keep Your
on the ball**

An icon of a human eye, rendered in black, positioned centrally between the two lines of text.

Thank you

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Centre for Public Scrutiny

The Centre for Public Scrutiny is a charity devoted to good governance and good decision-making.