

South Cambridgeshire District Council Scrutiny Members' Role Description

Scrutiny aims to improve the delivery of public services through providing critical but constructive challenge to the Cabinet and other organisations on issues of public concern, by acting as a community leader and championing the concerns of the public.

Roles, Responsibilities, and Expectations of Scrutiny Members

1.	Offering 'critical friend' challenge to the Cabinet and other organisations to help improve services in South Cambridgeshire
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - objectively hold the Council's executive to account by reviewing service performance against stated strategies, targets and aspirations - offer suggestions for improvement and highlight areas of weaknesses in Council services and policies, and identify efficiency savings - investigate the basis on which major decisions are taken and ensure that they are consistent with the Council policy - undertake similar 'critical friend' challenge of other local service providers
2.	Contributing to in-depth review of services and the development of policy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - participate in in-depth reviews of services involving analysis and evaluation of the implementation of existing policies, strategies and plans - contribute to the development of policy through active participation in Member-led reviews into particular issues or service areas
3.	Providing community leadership and engaging the public
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - engage with service users and other key stakeholders in order to effectively represent and forward their interests to the Council and other organisations through the scrutiny system - on behalf of the public, bring to the attention of the Chairman or the Committee any issue or idea that may warrant further investigation, development or scrutiny by the relevant scrutiny committee - contribute to the scrutiny of external bodies where appropriate, whose services have an impact on South Cambridgeshire communities
4.	Conduct and Behaviour
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - prepare effectively for meetings by reading all the relevant papers in advance so as to fully understand key issues - effectively and objectively question Cabinet members, officers and other individuals who offer evidence to the committee, and treat all with respect and courtesy - work effectively with fellow members of the relevant committee putting aside party differences - undergo appropriate training to help fulfil the roles and expectations set out above <p>(The general expectations regarding Council Members' behaviour are set out in the Members' Code of Conduct which is available from Democratic Services)</p>