

What's the latest?

At the recent questioning skills training session the following points were made by Members when asked to recap on the importance of scrutiny within a National Park and what benefits it could provide.

Continued improvement of services

Scrutiny ensures NPA is complying with policy – statutory obligations

Scrutiny provides an organisation with the opportunity to carry out a critical evaluation of services etc and make effective change

Public confidence. The National Park as a public body must demonstrate openness, trust will follow. Processes to be put in place to lead to the outcomes required

All public services should be accountable as to how resources are being spent – scrutiny can instil confidence, trust and governance

Scrutiny is a method of keeping Authorities in check and to hold both Members and Officers to account

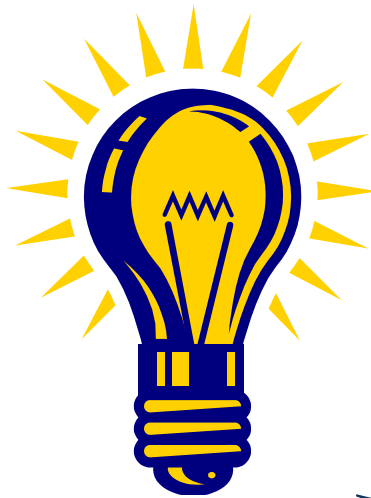
Provide best value for community

Best practice – important to not only scrutinise areas of failure

Public expectation – reassurance as to what NP is actually doing

Important, however busy, to stop and look at service delivery

Scrutiny should be embedded within an organisation and not be considered as additional to corporate process



The Scrutiny Pilot Review, the story so far....

At the 2nd Scrutiny Workshop held in Pembroke Dock on the 9th May a decision was made as to the subject for the pilot scrutiny review. The study will focus on the effectiveness of the Sustainable Development Fund in establishing low carbon communities.

The following Members volunteered to carry out this study and the **Scrutiny Pilot Review Group** was formed...

On behalf of BBNP:

Prof Alan Lovell (Project Manager)

Cllr Melanie Davies

Cllr Gareth Ratcliffe

Mrs Margaret Underwood

Cllr Helen Wyn

On behalf of PCNP:

Mr Ted Sangster

Cllr Mike James

Cllr Simon Hancock

Ms Fiona Lanc

This pilot study will allow Members to test the emerging methodology processes whilst reviewing a valid area of investigation.

Letters have gone out to those SDF beneficiaries who received funding in the 2007-2010 time period informing them of the study and inviting their participation. They will be contacted again shortly and asked for their confidential feedback on the SDF process from application to follow up support.

A short list of four projects, two from each National Park, will be visited by Members of the Pilot Review Group and then invited to hearings/interviews at their respective Park offices. Members from each National Park will work jointly on these visits and hearings allowing for pooled resources and increased objectivity.

The study will culminate in a report to be presented at the 25th July Scrutiny Workshop and will be subject to an assessment and evaluation by Frances Taylor and those members not involved in the review.

Forthcoming dates for your diaries!

The next sessions are all to be held at BBNPA offices and will run from 10:00am to 4:00pm unless otherwise informed:

20th June

25th July

11th November

Chairing Skills

3rd Scrutiny workshop

Facilitated evaluation of pilot scrutiny reviews

NB. Discussions are also under way to arrange some specialist officer training provided by Tim Buckle, from the Welsh Local Government Association. This will develop skills to support the scrutiny process in both authorities.

Should you wish to contact Frances Taylor in the meantime, she will be happy to help with any queries.

francesmtaylor@yahoo.com

Mobile tel: 07775 787 682



Annual CfPS Conference – London

The Annual CfPS conference was held on 2 June 2011 in London. BBNPA considered attendance and decided that a Member presence would not be necessary, as long as papers were subsequently made available to Members. Frances Taylor attended and will feed back any relevant documentation and information gleaned from the event's proceedings.

Visits to Local Authorities:

A wide variety of scrutiny practice has been observed by Members and Officers at recent Local Authority Committees – many thanks to those of you (below) who have already taken the time to visit and submit feedback.

Mr Richard Stow – Powys. Cllr William Powell – Malvern. Mrs Janet Evans and Cllr Michael Williams– Malvern & Bridgend. Cllr Peter Morgan – Malvern. Mrs Margaret Underwood – Powys & Monmouthshire. Mrs Julia Gruffydd – Powys & Monmouthshire. Prof Alan Lovell – Cardiff. Mrs Julie James– Bridgend & Carmarthen. Mrs Caroline Llewellyn & Mrs Janet Evans – Pembrokeshire. Ms Lora Davies – Monmouthshire. Mrs Melanie Doel & Mrs Carys Howell – Cardiff.

Forthcoming LA scrutiny committee dates:

7th June	10:00am Monmouth – Adults
9th June	10:00am Monmouth – Economy & Development
9th June	10:00am Dyfed Powys Police – Planning Performance & Scrutiny
16th June	10:00am Monmouth - Children & Young People
7th July	10:00am Monmouth – Strong Communities Select
14th July	10:00am Monmouth – Economy & Development
19th July	10:00am Monmouth – Adults
21st July	10:00am Monmouth – Children & Young People

If you would like to attend any of the above meetings as an observer please contact Lora, details below.

Resources/Further Information

A useful website is the Centre for Public Scrutiny www.cfps.org.uk (a national scrutiny body).

Another good reference is at www.wlga.gov.uk/english/overview-scrutiny/

There is, on the BBNP Members' Portal, a Scrutiny Forum where we will continue to post all relevant documents and where members can initiate discussion on any aspects of the project.

For further information please contact:

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