

**Community-Focused, Efficient Council Scrutiny Committee
Suggestions from Scrutiny Assembly Workshop**

Suggestions received from members of the public are not edited or changed in any way by the Scrutiny Team or other officers of the Council, and cannot be deemed to represent the views of any elected Members, or officers of Telford & Wrekin Council, or of the Scrutiny Team.

Priority	What would you like scrutiny to look at?	Why should scrutiny look at this issue?	Votes
A	Scrutiny getting involved in <u>developing</u> the budget (this would not take place of the Cabinet's role in policy making) *need to define what areas are – must be carefully scoped; timing is crucial – budget process and comprehensive spending review	Scrutiny can make innovative suggestions about how to save money and look at best practice in other authorities	6
A	Scrutiny of budget	Holding decision makers to account	0
A	Expenditure on taxi services in CYP	The current use is inefficient and need to be restructured	1
A	T&W public relations work - Raising profile of Council and working with partner organisations and Town and Parish Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the relationship between PR and the media? • Communication between Councillors and public, and community engagement • Using electronic communication • Ensuring information is accessible to people with disabilities 	1
B	Scrutinising efficiencies from back office functions e.g. postal services, payments *specific issue to be determined by Committee in September. One potential issue identified is the cost of ICT provision to remote offices	Scrutiny could contribute to existing service reviews as part of the restructuring to find efficiencies The current provision of ICT services to remote offices is very expensive and does not provide	4

<p>C</p>	<p>Service provision by public bodies such as NHS, Local Authority Social Services, Police, and funding through CVS as an umbrella body appears to suggest a racist policy adapted by Local Strategic Partnership and most of its members.</p> <p>Visible Minorities Development Council being an organisation focused on matters of race equality, elimination of unlawful race discrimination and promoting racial harmony expresses serious concern over the number of complaints and evidence presented by vulnerable adults and their families from Telford & Wrekin Areas. These complaints relate to serious failings from public bodies to respect and recognise the differences the “Ethnic Minority,” communities bring with them.</p> <p>The practice of providing generic services mostly by white staff and those ethnic minorities that are westernised deprives the ethnic minorities from meeting their needs particularly in a ethnically sensitive way as acknowledged by Race Relations Act Section 5 (2) (d) “the holder of the job provides persons of that racial group with personal services Promoting their welfare, and those services can most effectively be provided by a person of that racial group.”</p> <p>*Letter to be sent from Cabinet Member and Veronica Fletcher to James Kurian providing the information</p>	<p>value for money.</p> <p>Evidence suggests that public bodies are employing only generic staff who are mostly white British. The others are mostly from westernised ethnic minority communities who also do not share the ethnic characteristics of service users, carers, families and communities. There is clear concern that public bodies are failing to provide equality of access to ethnic minorities. The services fail to promote equal opportunities and equality of access to ethnic minorities locally. This is causing undue distress to vulnerable service users and their significant others including their communities. Although data is collected recognising ethnic categories as described in 2001 Census and by CRE, there appears to be clear failings from public bodies locally to respect the differences and provide services accordingly.</p> <p>Request scrutiny of policies of NHS, Local Authority Social Services, Police, and private and Voluntary Organisations from whom services are procured.</p> <p>1. Request examination of appointment of staff from different communities to ensure that they are employed to provide personal services to their own communities. These jobs may include professional and other jobs such as in housing</p>	<p>0</p>
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C	<p>The amount spent by each department in T&W for services provided by consultants</p> <p>*The Council will be required to publish expenditure over £500</p>	<p>At a time of looking at value for money, it is clear that the Environment and Planning Dept., the Economic Dept. etc., rely on consultants for a number of specialist reports. The question is are these tasks that in-house staff could undertake in a more cost effective manner, are internal resources being properly and fully used etc.</p>	0