

Member Survey 2022

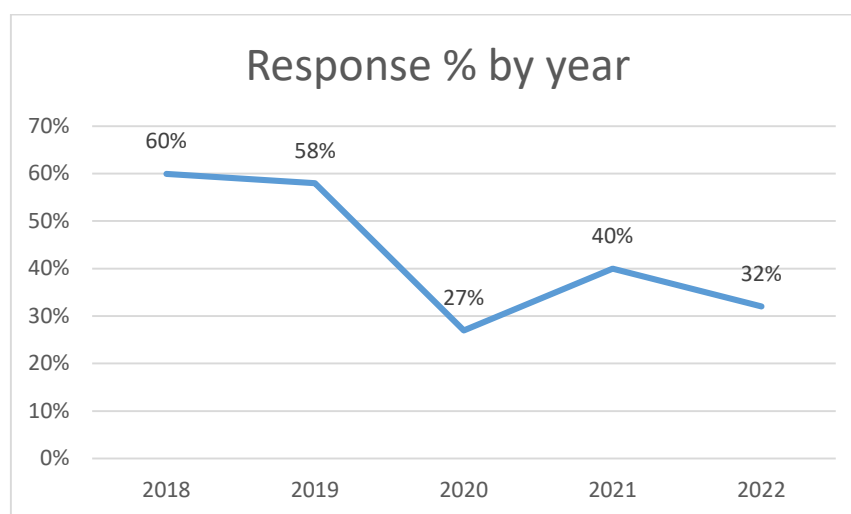
Survey respondents

The member survey was sent out to sixty councillors and three co-opted members giving a survey cohort totalling 63 members.

Response rate

The survey was completed by 20 councillors and 1 co-opted member, giving an overall response rate of 32%. The response rate continues to fluctuate yearly.

Diagram 1: Member survey response rate

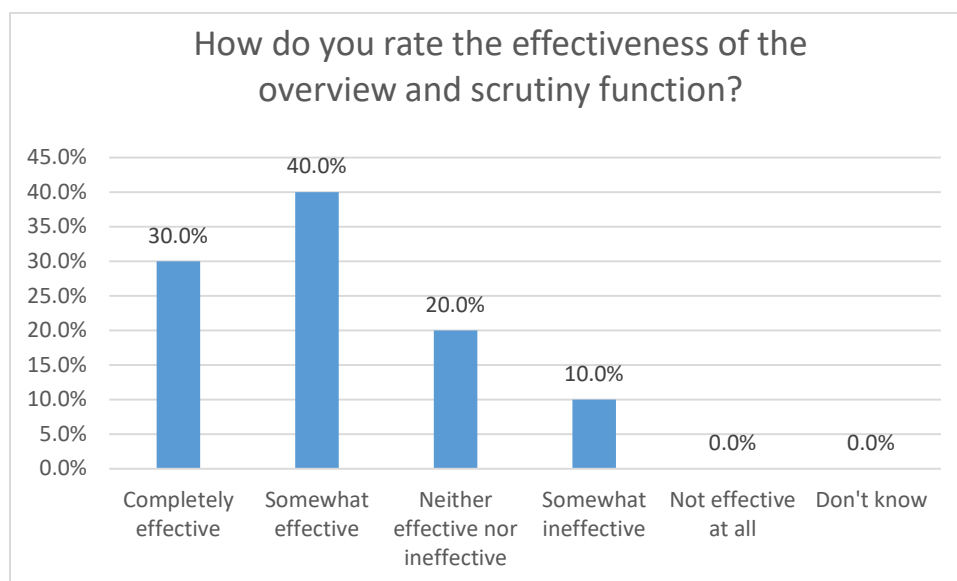


The majority of this year's respondents have been actively involved in the scrutiny process over the past year:

- 64% of respondents are a member of the scrutiny commission or panels
- 25% are other non-executive members'
- 56% have attended a scrutiny meeting as a visiting member to observe/contribute

Effectiveness of the scrutiny function

The survey asked respondents to consider the overall effectiveness of scrutiny. The proportion of respondents who consider scrutiny to be effective overall stands at 70%.

Diagram 2: The overall effectiveness of scrutiny

Pre-decision scrutiny 70% rated the effectiveness of pre-decision scrutiny as completely or somewhat effective in 2021/22.

Call-ins

Call-in continues to be an area with the lowest rates of satisfaction. It is the most political element of scrutiny and does not usually result in a request to Cabinet to review its decision. There were three call-ins in the last municipal year.

Performance monitoring

The effectiveness of performance monitoring has decreased slightly on last year at 65% compared to the previous 76%.

Development of the Commission/Panel Work Programmes

This year 79% of respondents agreed they had the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Commission and Panel work programmes.

Scrutiny Agendas/Workload

On a downward trend, only 59% of respondents agreed that Commission/Panel agendas are the correct length. This requires further investigation as to how to improve this score.

Scrutiny impact on decision making by the Cabinet

This year councillors feel decision-making by the Cabinet has been influenced to some extent by comments from the Commission and Panels; 43% (with 20% strongly) for the Commission and 41% (with 19% strongly) for the Panels.

Better organisation

The survey provided a list of actions that could be taken to improve the organisation of scrutiny business and respondents were asked to tick all the items that they supported:

Diagram 4: In what ways do you think scrutiny business might be better organised?

Commission/Panels to be more selective when setting agendas	32%
More use of external experts to provide context and challenge	73%
Background policy guidance provided	73%
More meetings to accommodate all the items	20%
Guidance provided on possible questions to be asked at meetings	27%
Councillors supported to conduct their own individual reviews	20%
Cross-party pre-meetings to agree lines of questioning for some agenda items <i>*Up from 8% in 2021</i>	49%*

Quality of evidence presented to overview and scrutiny

62% of respondents said that the evidence presented to overview and scrutiny has been good and meets the needs of the session. This is an improvement on last year's score.

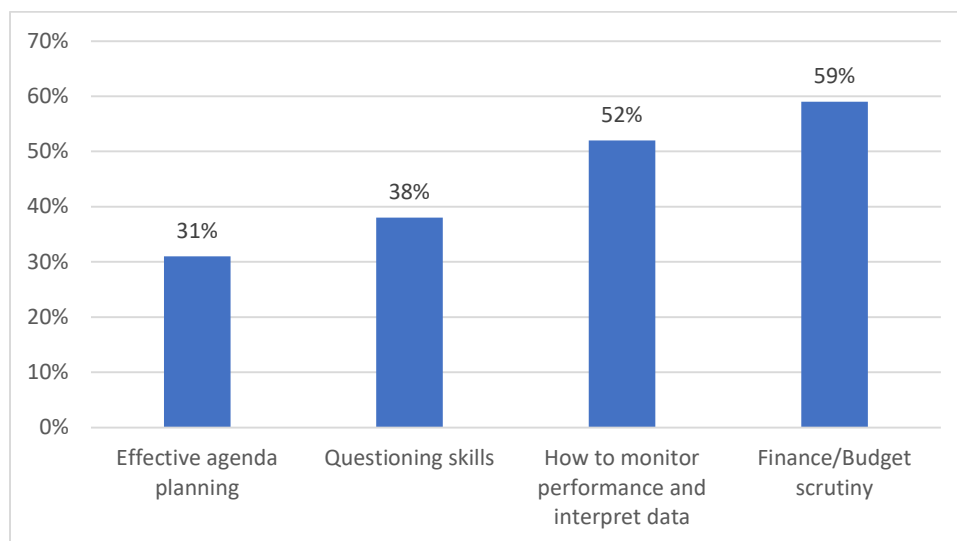
Support from the Scrutiny Team

Satisfaction levels remain high, with 60% rating the support provided by the scrutiny team as excellent and 32% as good.

Members' training and development needs

The skills and knowledge, which members bring to the overview and scrutiny process, are crucial to its effectiveness, so the survey asked what scrutiny related training and development opportunities they would like to have provided in the coming year:

Diagram 6: Demand for Member training



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