

Appendix A

Consultation questions

1. Do you agree that we should extend scrutiny powers in relation to Local Area Agreement (LAA) partners to cover the range of their activities in an area, not just those limited to specific LAA targets?
2. Do we need to make scrutiny powers more explicit in relation to local councils' role in scrutinising expenditure on delivery of local public services in an area? If so, what is the best way of achieving this?
3. Do you agree that we should bring all or some of the local public services as set out in this chapter fully under the local authority scrutiny regime? Are there other bodies who would benefit from scrutiny by Local Government?
4. How far do you agree that we should extend scrutiny powers to enable committees to require attendance by officers or board members of external organisations to give evidence at scrutiny hearings, similar to the powers already in existence for health and police?
5. What more could be done to ensure that councils adequately resource and support the local government scrutiny function to carry out its role to full effect?
6. How can council leaders ensure that scrutiny is a core function of how their organisations do business and have a full and proper role in scrutinising the full range of local public services?
7. What more could be done to better connect and promote the important role of local government scrutiny to local communities, for example, citizens as expert advisers to committees?
8. How best should any reduction in numbers of LAA targets ensure that services are responsive to the most important local needs and priorities as well as national entitlements?
9. Should councils have a power to engage in mutual insurance arrangements?
This question is not relevant to be answered by the Scrutiny Committee.
10. Are there other powers needed to cover engagement in further complex arrangements of a possibly speculative nature outside of existing powers?
11. Do you agree that greater powers should be premised on demonstration of local confidence? How should this be demonstrated? How can councils best reverse the decline in confidence?
12. Are there core issues that should have greater council control which councils believe they are currently prevented from undertaking? If so what are they and what is the case for councils to take on these roles?
13. Do you agree that there should be a review of the structure of local partnerships with a view to identifying unhelpful overlap and duplication?
Are there particular issues on which such a review should focus?