

**CYNGOR CAERDYDD
CARDIFF COUNCIL**

COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 MARCH 2023

COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES - COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Purpose of Report

1. To seek committee's approval of the draft Community & Adult Services Scrutiny pages of the Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23, as proposed at **Appendix A** and **Appendix B**.
2. This report also invites Members to express an interest in sitting on the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.

Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

3. The Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees to report annually to a formal meeting of Council on their work during the past year, and to propose insight into their future work programmes. If the Scrutiny Report is agreed by Council, it will become available for download bi-lingually from the Council's website, in standard or large print version, and will also offer a translation in other minority languages if requested.
4. Scrutiny Annual Reports capture the work, and impact, of all five scrutiny committees. They are designed to provide a qualitative and quantitative assessment of how Scrutiny has influenced the way Council services are delivered; improved

stakeholder understanding, interest and participation in the council's decision-making process; and the value of Member-led / stakeholder informed decision making.

5. Scrutiny Annual Reports are public facing documents and so are structured to be short, impactful reads, in a bid to generate and encourage public interest, understanding and engagement with Scrutiny. For Members information, an example of a finalised Scrutiny Annual Report is available [here](#).
6. Within the Annual Report, each Scrutiny Committee has a dedicated section to highlight key areas of work they have undertaken during the period, May 2022 – April 2023.
7. A 'looking ahead' section at the end of the report, then provides members of the public with insight into potential, forthcoming areas of work. It is to be noted, the committee's areas of future work are to be agreed by the committee at a future work programming forum.
8. In preparation for the final draft of the Scrutiny Annual Report to be designed and considered at a meeting of Council, each committee is required to agree both the 'key areas of work' and 'looking ahead section' as relevant to their committee. Draft pages are therefore attached at **Appendix A** and **Appendix B** for this committee's approval.
9. To confirm, **Appendix A**, focuses on key areas of work undertaken by this committee during the municipal year, May 2022 – April 2023, with **Appendix B** proposing indicative information for the 'looking ahead' section of the report.

Background – Replacement Local Development Plan

10. The Replacement LDP is a crucial strategic document which governs the future development and economic growth of Cardiff till 2036. It is a key driver for investment, competitiveness, growth and environmental protection in Cardiff and will have implications for the wider city region.
11. In September 2021, the five Scrutiny Committees individually considered the first stage of the Replacement LDP - Vision, Issues and Objectives and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report - prior to its consideration by Cabinet. Following these meetings, a collective letter capturing all concerns and observations from all five committees was sent to Cabinet.
12. In October 2021, all five scrutiny Committees approved the establishment of a joint task & finish group, comprising the Chairpersons of the five Scrutiny Committees plus a volunteer from each Committee, to consider the next stage of the Replacement LDP, the Strategic Options. The Task Group met on several occasions, resulting in 2 letters to Cabinet setting out key findings and recommendations relating to consultation and engagement, strategic and delivery options, and accessibility, inclusivity and environmental sustainability.

The Preferred Strategy

13. The next stage of the Replacement LDP is the Preferred Strategy, which will set out the preferred level of housing and jobs growth for the plan and the spatial strategy to deliver this growth. It will also contain a number of draft strategic key policies – such as sustainable transport, protecting the environment and delivering quality new development – which will inform the preparation of a Deposit Plan.
14. Welsh Government guidance requires the Preferred Strategy to be founded on a robust and up to date evidence base; this is tested during the independent examination of the Deposit Plan.

15. The draft Preferred Strategy will be consulted on July - September 2023, finalised by the Council's Cabinet in Autumn 2023 and will then be considered for approval by Full Council.

The Scrutiny Process

16. It is essential that the Preferred Strategy is subject to robust scrutiny prior to being finalised by Cabinet.

17. The Scrutiny Chairs have agreed that a task and finish group be established, consisting of the Chairs of the five Scrutiny Committees and two volunteers from each committee.

18. The Task and Finish group needs to be established as soon as possible to plan and commence work around the RLDP Preferred Strategy, scheduled to go out to consultation in July 2023.

19. The Terms of Reference for the Task and Finish Group have yet to be set but will be established by the Task and Finish Group and presented to the 5 Scrutiny Committees for agreement.

20. Members might wish to consider the potential benefits of joining the task and finish group. Some of these benefits will include:

- Becoming involved in the scrutiny of a key strategic corporate and statutory document which has major implications for the future of Cardiff.
- Gaining an in-depth awareness of the issues underpinning the LDP and its process.
- Gaining experience of the Task and Finish process and the dynamics of working with Members from the Council's other four Scrutiny Committees.

21. It is proposed that the task group will meet from March 2023 onwards. Following approval of the Preferred Strategy, it is anticipated that the task and finish group will continue to meet periodically, to undertake scrutiny of future stages of the Replacement LDP.

Way Forward

22. During the meeting, Committee Members are to:

- Consider the draft Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee pages, attached at **Appendix A & Appendix B**, and advise if any amendments are required prior to its final consideration.
- Those Committee Members interested, to express their interest to sit on the RLDP Task and Finish Group that will consider the next stage of the RLDP process.

Legal Implications

The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

23. The committee is recommended to:

- I. Consider, and if necessary, amend, the draft committee pages, attached at **Appendices A & B**.
- II. Seek and agree expressions of interest in sitting on the Replacement Local Development Plan Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance & Legal Services

14 March 2023