

COUNCIL

29 JUNE 2023

REPORT OF DIRECTOR GOVERNANCE & LEGAL SERVICES

SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Reason for this Report

1. This report presents the combined achievements of the Council's 5 Scrutiny Committees in one Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23, attached at **Appendix A**.

Background

2. Cardiff Council's Constitution requires all Scrutiny Committees to report annually to Full Council on their work during the past year and make recommendations for future work programmes.
3. The Council has five Scrutiny Committees, across which membership is politically proportionate in line with its membership. The committees are:
 - a. Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee
 - b. Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee
 - c. Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
 - d. Environmental Scrutiny Committee
 - e. Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee
4. Scrutiny has worked alongside the Cabinet to introduce a performance monitoring process that captures the impact of its work over a year by monitoring recommendations from Committees, Task Groups and Panels. The new arrangements support the Council in complying with the self-assessment requirements of the new Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

5. This new process has provided an evidence base for the development of the Council's combined Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23.

Issues

6. The key drivers for reporting the activity of the Council's 5 scrutiny committees in this way have been:

- The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 emphasis on the need for the Council to encourage engagement and participation by local people in decision-making;
- Recognition of the need to target a wider audience with a faster, more appealing, read;
- Integration with improvements to the scrutiny pages of the Council's website.

7. The report attached at **Appendix A** captures the work of all 5 Scrutiny Committees, highlighting key areas of achievement in 2022/23. It focuses on the difference made to residents, visitors, staff, and businesses. The report aims to:

- Highlight how Scrutiny has influenced the way Council services are delivered;
- Improve stakeholder understanding and interest in Scrutiny;
- Explain how Scrutiny facilitates engagement and encourages public participation; and
- Highlight the value of Member-led/ stakeholder informed decision making.

8. Following submission of this report to Full Council, it is intended that the report will be made available for download bi-lingually from the Council's website, in standard or large print version.

9. The report will also offer a translation in other minority languages if requested.

10. Each Scrutiny Committee has approved their contribution to the combined report attached at **Appendix A**.

Reason for Recommendations

11. To present to Full Council the combined Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23, an approach that replaces the five individual scrutiny committee annual reports previously produced and reported to Council.

Legal Implications

12. The Local Government Act 2000 requires authorities to set up overview and scrutiny committees. The legislative provisions for overview and scrutiny committees for Wales have been amended and supplemented by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and Regulations made thereunder. There are also specific legislative provisions relating to scrutiny of crime and disorder matters (the Police and Justice Act 2006); and Public Services Board functions (the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015). Subject to compliance with the relevant statutory provisions, the scrutiny arrangements of the Council are a matter for each Council to determine.
13. Under the Constitution, Article 6.3(d), Scrutiny Committees must report annually to the Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods, if appropriate. The format of the annual report is a matter for each scrutiny committee to determine, having regard to the views of all interested parties.

Financial Implications

14. Scrutiny Committees are empowered to enquire, consider, review, and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As this annual report summarises and presents their work in 2022/23 to Full Council there are no direct financial implications at this stage.

Recommendation

Full Council is recommended to receive the Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23, attached at **Appendix A**, and note the arrangements to be made for publishing and making it available to the public.

Davina Fiore

Director Governance & Legal Services

23 June 2023

Appendices:

Appendix A: Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23