



County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2000

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2000

AGENDA

Committee	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
Date and Time of Meeting	TUESDAY, 15 JUNE 2021, 4.30 PM	
Venue	REMOTE MEETING VIA MS TEAMS	
Membership	<p>Councillor Lee Bridgeman (Chair) Councillors Cunnah, Hopkins, Joyce, Melbourne, Molik, Phillips, Mia Rees and Singh</p> <p>Patricia Arlotte (Roman Catholic representative), Carol Cobert (Church in Wales Representative), Karen Dell'Armi (Parent Governor Representative), Matthew Richards (Parent Governor Representative) and Jones</p> <p>Mia John (Youth Council Representative)</p>	<p><i>Time approx.</i></p>
1	Appointment of Chairperson and Committee Membership	4.30 pm
	<p>To note that Council at its Annual Meeting on 27 May 2021 appointed Councillor Lee Bridgeman as the Chairperson and the following Members to the Committee for the municipal year 2021/2022:</p> <p>Elected Members: Councillors Cunnah, Hopkins, Joyce, Melbourne, Molik, Phillips, Mia Rees and Singh</p> <p>Co-Opted Members: Patricia Arlotte (Roman Catholic Representative), Carol Cobert (Church in Wales Representative), Karen Dell'Armi (Parent Governor Representative) and Matthew Richards (Parent Governor Representative)</p>	
2	Terms of Reference (Pages 5 - 6)	
	<p>To note that the Council at its Annual Meeting on 27 May agreed the Committee's Terms of Reference for the municipal year 2021/2022</p>	
3	Apologies for Absence	
	<p>To receive apologies for absence.</p>	

4 Declarations of Interest

To be made at the start of the agenda item in question, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

5 Minutes *(Pages 7 - 18)*

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting on 15 March 2021.

6 21st Century Schools Band B: The Expansion and Redevelopment of Cathays High School 4.40 pm

(To follow)

To enable Members to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the 21st Century Schools Band B proposals.

7 Schools Organisation Planning: Primary School Places to serve Cathays and parts of Gabalfa, Heath, Llandaff North and Plasnewydd 5.50 pm

(To follow)

To enable Members to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the Schools Organisation Plan Proposals.

8 Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/2021 *(Pages 19 - 38)* 6.50 pm

Summary of the 5 Scrutiny Committees' impact during the 2020/2021 municipal year.

9 Work Programme 2021/2022 *(Pages 39 - 42)* 7.00 pm

To discuss and agree the approach to developing the Committee's Work Programme 2021/2022.

10 Urgent Items (if any)

11 Way Forward

To review the evidence and information gathered during consideration of each agenda item; and agree Members comments, observations and concerns to be passed on to the relevant Cabinet Member by the Chairperson

12 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Committee is on Tuesday 13 July at 4.30 pm via MS Teams.

Davina Fiore

Director Governance & Legal Services

Date: Wednesday, 9 June 2021

Contact: Mandy Farnham,

02920 872618, Mandy.Farnham@cardiff.gov.uk

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

This page is intentionally left blank

Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee

Terms of Reference

Agreed by Annual Council – 27 May 2021

To scrutinise, measure and actively promote improvement in the Council's performance in the provision of services and compliance with Council policies, aims and objectives in the area of children and young people, including :

- School Improvement
- Schools Organisation
- School Support Services
- Education Welfare & Inclusion
- Early Years Development
- Special Educational needs
- Governor Services
- Children's Social Services
- Youth Services and Justice
- Children's Play Services

To assess the impact of partnerships with and resources and services provided by external organisations including the Welsh Government, Welsh Government Sponsored Public Bodies, joint local government services and quasi-departmental non-governmental bodies on the effectiveness of Council service delivery.

To report to an appropriate Cabinet or Council meeting on its findings and to make recommendations on measures which may enhance Council performance and service delivery in this area.

This page is intentionally left blank

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 MARCH 2021

Present: Councillor Bridgeman (Chairperson),
Councillors Cunnah, Hopkins, Melbourne, Molik, Phillips, Mia Rees,
and Singh

Co-opted Members: Patricia Arlotte (Roman Catholic representative),
Carol Cobert (Church in Wales Representative), Karen Dell'Armi
(Parent Governor Representative) and Matthew Richards (Parent
Governor Representative)

Mia John (Youth Council Representative)

18 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Heather Joyce, Councillor Mike Philips had indicated that he would be late in attending the meeting and Councillor Mia Rees advised that she would have to leave the meeting at 6.00 pm.

19 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Molik declared a personal interest in Item 4 in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct on the basis that she has children attending school who are and will be subject to the schools admission criteria.

20 : MINUTES

The approval of the minutes of the meeting on 23 February 2021 was deferred until the next meeting of the committee on 11 May 2021.

21 : SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2022-2023

The Chairperson advised that this item enabled Members to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the School Admission arrangements prior to its consideration by Cabinet on 18th March 2021.

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills); Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning); Michelle Dudridge-Friedl (Operational Manager, Planning & Provision); and Richard Portas (Programme Director, Schools Organisation Programme) to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members, summarised as follows:

- Members discussed the secondary school admission data which had been published during the course of the last week and the likely data for primary school admissions. Concerns were raised in relation to the over-subscription levels; the length of residency and the risk of indirect discrimination bearing in mind the

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg.

additional homes being built in various areas; and the distance children have to travel to other schools which seems to undermine the Active Travel policy. It was noted that a substantial overview of the admissions policy and over subscription criteria had been undertaken in anticipation of the extra pressure on secondary school places by WIZERD. Length of residence, catchment schools; and issues of poverty, for example children who received free school meals (FSM) were all considered. It was felt that the length of residence could discriminate against particular groups of people, in particular those that are more mobile. One of the duties of the Authority is to remove or minimise suffering by persons who have rare or protected characteristics; examples of which would be gypsy traveller children; asylum seekers; and refugees.

It is anticipated that secondary numbers will continue to rise for a number of years, but primary numbers are now dropping significantly but there will always be specific areas which are highly sought after from within catchment or outside. It is expected that the overall population will reduce over the coming years.

Members were advised that the supply of places is constantly monitored. The amount of the drop in primary school places was not expected or predicted and the effect that the pandemic will have on those figures is very much an unknown. Catchment changes will be considered after Band B.

- A Member queried why, based on the oversubscription figures, Cardiff High did not figure more predominantly in the Band B school building programme, particularly bearing in mind children's welfare and active travel when children are travelling greater distances. The Cabinet Member does not agree that Cardiff High is the main issue when discussing the over subscription criteria; it is not about groups of children, it relates to every child across the city. In relation to schools such as Fitzalan, Willows and Cantonian they were all category D condition schools. In terms of Cathays there are already children in temporary buildings because of school numbers.
- Members requested information in relation to the how the predictions of figures for the future are worked out and referred to the oversubscription at Eastern High School, the new estate being planned for the Llanrumney site in 2024 and the development now on the old Rumney High School site. Members were advised that in terms of projections officers consider the Pupil Level Annual Census which provides details of children on roll in Cardiff. The data for that is submitted in January and usually verified in the June. There is also the information provide on the numbers on roll which does fluctuate. They allow for consideration of the number of children, the types of school and how historically choices and preferences have

been made. There is a 3 year weighted average that gives you an idea of where children will go through into the secondary system. When looking at those going into the primary system GP registrations data is also considered which give details of how many children have been born. Take up 3 year weighted averages are also considered.

In terms of new build sites the catchment area is considered together with the neighbouring location, the trends with regards to English/Welsh medium and faith, where additional places are likely to be needed and whether there are places available already. When planning permission is applied for the applicant has to set out the make-up of the housing they expect to deliver; there is supplementary planning guidance which is aligned with the LDP; it is currently being reviewed but it will tell you how many pupils would need to be yielded from an estate and what size school and number of places would be required to accommodate them.

It is a complex picture. The strategic response to the situation in Llanrumney, the decision was to invest in one school, Eastern High, which was larger than one of the schools but not as big as both schools it replaced. It did achieve a balance when it was opened. It has been successful, but there is places in that area.

- Members discussed school provision moving forward and expressed concern that a primary school had to request planning permission for demountables. It is a school with a large over subscription number. Members were advised that modulars are being considered as permanent accommodation, Ty Gwyn is an excellent example of this. It is important to have flexibility across the school system. Additional accommodation has been put into Cathays High School which is a good stepping stone towards their new build. Officers added that they were not aware of any school that has had to put own planning permission in; it would have been picked up.
- Members sought confirmation that requirements in relation to active travel and safe routes are met before asking children to change schools or use different routes to school.

RESOLVED – That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations during the Way Forward.

22 : SCHOOLS/EDUCATION PANDEMIC RECOVER UPDATE

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills); Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning); Mike Tate (Assistant Director of Education & Lifelong Learning), Neil Hardee (Head of Services to Schools); and Suzanne Scarlett (Operational Manager, Partnerships and Performance to the meeting.

Councillor Merry was invited to make a statement during which she confirmed that there was a shared commitment to ensure that the return to school is positive, it is based on re-engagement and wellbeing with support that can be relied on. Further, whilst we are concerned about the impact of the last year on children, it is important that we do not use language that suggests that they have lost out and that will stay with them. They should not become the Covid generation.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members.

- Members asked that references to Looked After Children in the documentation is amended to Children Looked After.
- Members were pleased to note that over 20,000 digital devices have been issued and that those involved in education other than at school (EOTAS) have become more engaged. The Assistant Director advised that the intention is to move towards a one to one device led approach to the foundation phase and above. It will help with the blended learning approach and a change in the pedagogy that has been seen in the second lockdown phase. In relation to the EOSTAS pupils, not only has there been real engagement through the use of technology but also with engagement with youth services and out of school provision. They are all opportunities on which to build in the future.
- Members referred to the enhanced level of specialist support services and queried whether they are currently able to cope with the pressure on those services and how will they be developed in the future. Members were advised that through use of technology and the different ways of working better use can be made of the specialist support services. There has to be focus on the wellbeing and confidence of children and young people when returning to school. It is important to allow Teachers and Head teachers to teach whilst we put that wrap around support in place for them to be able to use for mental health, wellbeing etc. Linked to that is the summer engagement piece which will help in moving us towards the September full time engagement.
- Members referred to examination year groups returning to school this week and that certain schools have announced that exams and assessments will start next month. Members queried whether all schools are on board with the wellbeing plans in the circumstances. The Cabinet Member advised that she hoped and believed all schools were on board with the well-being agenda, it is something that they should be thinking about now. School Governors can also help push that agenda. The Assistant Director advised that in terms of exams prior to Christmas they were to be cancelled but it has only been in the last few weeks that the process of determining grades has come out to schools. There will be some exams; they will be class room based which is far better for wellbeing. They are also one part of the teacher determined grades. There will be coursework

pieces and prior assessments so that a rounded picture can be obtained to give the grade.

- Members sought information about the number of Covid cases at present in schools and the number of teachers who have received vaccinations. The Assistant Director advised that certainly before Christmas there was up to 60 cases a day. There continues to be cases with schools being open for vulnerable and key worker pupils. All primary schools are open from today. Numbers will rise, there is no doubt. Cases are recorded and are reported daily, we will continue to provide information about schools in your wards also. Vaccinations will build confidence; staff in special schools have been prioritised. It should be noted that, due to the age profile of staff across Cardiff, within a matter of weeks almost 60% will have had an offer of a vaccination. Schools also are offering staff lateral flow device tests (LFT's), twice a week on a voluntary basis. In just over a week 6,500 tests have been taken; there have been two positive cases and 14 void cases, where the device has not registered a reading. The two positive LFTs have resulted in positive cases. LFT's will also be available for pupils year 10 and above, they can be collected from school and take them home.

We will have them available for pupils year 10 and above – they can collect from school and take them at home. LFT's are used when pupils are asymptomatic. All contact details are sent through to track and trace.

- Members asked when engagement will take place with School Leaders in respect of long term strategic planning and whether there be will plans to respond to concerns about attendance where they may occur. Officers advised that the new curriculum and ALN reform bill are still on the horizon and that the response in respect of well-being sits well with the new curriculum, further, improvement partners will continue to focus on that when they are looking at the school development plans. Several focus groups are looking at a peer driven long term recovery approach. In terms of attendance, whilst it still does not need to be reported it is critical to work on it. There have been issues with online attendance, issues with the inability to engage over time and we have used the vulnerable learner panel to help reengage and to undertake welfare checks. It is important also to monitor non-attendance and non-engagement.
- Members discussed 17 – 18 year who are reported as feeling worried most of the time and becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training); whether there will be adequate provision; and how that can provision can be accessed by learners and families. The Assistant Director referred to the focus on school counselling and the support for our young children and how we continue to build a full package around schools. One of the opportunities that has arisen as a result of the pandemic is

the vulnerable learner panel, where those vulnerable learners have been identified across the city. Specific responses have been to the vulnerable learner panel for direct involvement with Children's Services and our own services. That has been particularly successful.

In relation to 16 year old transition into further education, Officers advised that the Youth Service have been working virtually and engaged those who have been previously disengaged. The level of NEET's this year has been one of its lowest ever but the level of support then has to be considered. There have been additional courses and provision to ensure that continues. In Cardiff there has been a broad range of support for young people.

Young people have indicated that they do feel they could benefit from school counselling, however, young people feel that it should be face to face rather than on screen. Those who need face to face engagement will be prioritised.

A school also needs to be considered within the community, it will be important to encourage continued parental engagement; to develop family learning; and to develop continued family and community support.

RESOLVED – That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations during the Way Forward.

23 : CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY 2021 - 2024

The Chairperson advised that this item enabled Members to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the Strategy prior to its consideration by Cabinet on 18th March 2021.

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills) in her capacity as Chair of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee; Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children and Families); Deborah Driffield (Director, Children's Services); and Jade Harrison (Operational Manager for Service Improvement and Strategy in Social Services) to the meeting.

Councillor Hinchey was invited to make a statement in which introduced the updated strategy. It encourages Officers, Elected Members and Key Partners to work together to improve outcomes and life chances for Children Looked After and Care Leavers. Young people have informed us as to what has been working well, what has not been working well and what aspirations they have for the future.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members.

- Members sought information in relation the number of foster carers who are not in house and in respect of Care Leavers 21% of whom may be facing homelessness and 93.7% in suitable accommodation and whether there are sufficient support

structures whilst they are in our care to address the homelessness issues and not being in education.

The Cabinet Member, in terms of suitable accommodation, the Right Home Right Support commissioning document outlines the various range of placements and support which will be required, including Stepping Down out of Care. Members were advised that temporary accommodation is deemed homeless, but it is suitable and appropriate but it can be effect the figures.

The Director indicated that there are 362 children and young people living with foster carers that are not in house with the local authority. The ratio is increasing although it is difficult to do simple ratio because things move about all the time.

- Members discussed their concerns about substance misuse becoming normalised in our society and amongst young people and whether substance misuse is an issue with children in our care. The Director advised that substance misuse would never be the sole reason. There has been a significant increase in parental substance misuse which impacts on whether children become accommodated and looked after. A preventative strategy is being considered for young people; one of the strands will be about substance misuse. It should also be linked with the Adolescent Strategy which will form part of the joint recovery plan with Education.
- Members queried the feedback from young people and whether the current data on improved recruitment has led to better relationships with young people. Members were advised that it has been common issue in relation to complaints bearing in mind the difficulties in establishing a stable work force. At the present time there are 52 agency social workers; there is far less turn over in permanent staff but a greater turnover in agency staff which means instability for a smaller number of young people. The problem does continue. Information about the number of changes of social worker can be provided.

If social workers to move on, a more robust handover arrangement has been implemented to ensure that next social worker that becomes involved in that case is totally familiar with the support plan going forward. This minimised the negative impact that the change will have.

- Members discussed the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable groups and whether young people placed out of area will not be disproportionately disadvantaged and any support for them will be as robust for them as it is for other groups. Members were advised that the plan is always to move young people back into area as soon as possible, but certainly when they are 16 as there is a robust support package that can be put in place in Cardiff. Regular monitoring of those out of the area takes place but

unfortunately, a minority of young people want to stay outside of the area; it is then far more difficult as we cannot control the approach other areas take.

- Members noted that 76% of Children Looked After have a Personal Education Plan and queried whether that is low; does it only apply in Cardiff or is it all Children who are Looked After. It does not appear to reach 100% and the significance of that. Members would be provided with that information in due course.

RESOLVED – That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations during the Way Forward.

24 : YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE UPDATE

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children and Families); Deborah Driffield (Director, Children's Services); Graham Robb (Independent Chair of the Youth Justice Board) and Angharad Thomas (Operational Manager, Youth Offending Service) to the meeting.

Councillor Hinchey was invited to make a statement in which welcomed Angharad Thomas to the team and was pleased that Graham Robb will remain at Cardiff for another 12 months. The Inspectors were persuaded that there should be open letter to Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committed in confidence about the progress. The feedback in December was positive and progress has been made and will continue.

Graham Robb outlined the following:

- since the report was written the strategic stocktake has been completed;
- we are now 6 months in to a 2 year programme;
- 3 workshops/sessions have taken place with staff and Councillors. It is important to keep a close eye on the priorities to ensure that Angharad Thomas has the chance to all the service development work she needs and wants to do;
- There is still more quality assurance work to be done and work force development;
- A lot of progress has been made on the health needs assessments; The sub-committee looking at this issue is to be far more about problem solving and getting better outcomes for young people;
- It is vital that we consider and be aware of the long term effect of Covid;
- There will be another full inspection between the end of June and Christmas. We will get some weeks' notice. It will be a 3 week process; and
- The YJS Board is beginning to look like business as usual now and a new Chair can be appointed this time next year.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members.

- Members made reference to a Police and Crime Plan and the need for early, prompt and positive action to be taken. Members queried the reoffending rates and that the current average is 3.6 per individual in the first 6 months after the first offence and what

focus the service has on intervening with offenders who are reoffending, the nature of the intervention and whether those interventions are prompt enough. Members were advised that broadly speaking HMIP will consider 60 – 70 cases case in due course. They will meet the Case Officers and want to ensure that they know the children well and know what needs to be done and what will make the difference. The first priority has to be to look at children the system at the moment and be sure that a holistic view is being taken. This risks have to be clear; Good, clear, assessments of the children and the services playing in are a necessity. It is important that we have live re-offending data.

The Operational Manager (OM) advised that the focus of the services is now the planning and intervention. There has to be a joined up plan to enable early intervention to avoid reoffending. It is important that we work with the young person to create the plan rather than them feeling that it is being done for them. They have to own their plan. There has to have been some progress as in Cardiff the nature of the offences, when looking at reoffending, are less serious.

Members were advised that within the service, partnership working is working really well, but more work needs to be done in strengthening links with the Early Help Team.

Members noted the importance of completing the joint strategic needs assessment, it will inform as to what other partners may be needed within the community to support the young people. There may also be more sub-groups required on particular aspects of the work.

The Director advised that recently there has been some joint working with Health in relation to speech and language therapy; there is a high percentage of children involved in the Youth Justice Service who suffer such difficulties. Whilst training and pathways were reviewed by therapist, it is not seen as a gap it is something which needs to be developed going forward.

- Members referred to the reduction in case work and asked what that was due to Covid. If that is case what is in place to address the spikes as the recovery process continues.

The OM advised that there has been a reduction in the statutory case load but the Out of Court and Prevention case load is increasing. It was noted in relation to the total lack of Probation input in February in Youth Justice Service Case Planning Forums was due to no young people of that age group during that time. Members were advised that a Probation Officer has been seconded to the Team and the Sub-Committee is Chaired by a Member of the Probation Service.

- Members commented that the issues that have been raised

during this process are not just issues for the Youth Justice Service but for all those partners involved as well; Children's Services; Education; Community Safety Partnership; and Third Sector. The other services need to be held to account, they are societal problems and whilst Children's Services can provide some of the support mechanisms, the problems themselves cannot be solved without the input of all.

- Members referred to Quality Assurance as being a work in progress and what the priorities were. Members were advised that time is required to better understand the impact of the work that is currently being undertaken. It is not just about meeting performance targets is about better education and better outcomes for the young people. It is the long term impact.

RESOLVED – That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations during the Way Forward.

25 : CHILDREN'S SERVICE QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE 2020-2021

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children and Families) and Deborah Driffield (Director, Children's Services) to the meeting to present the report.

Councillor Hinchey was invited to make a statement in which he confirmed that the report refers to a period from the end of restart phase, through the firebreak and through to the start of the second full lock down in December.

The Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members.

- Members sought clarification in respect of the difference between the family help team and the support for families team. The Director advised that Early Help Service is an umbrella for a number of services; The Gateway and Family Support. Those services are pre-statutory and do not sit within Children's Services and referrals can be made by other organisations. Support For Families is a services that does sit under Children's Services, but it is also pre-statutory and people can enter voluntarily agree to have support from that service.
- Members queried the information supplied, namely the percentage of children placed in regulated placements in Cardiff and sought information in relation to those targets and why the percentage of those placed in Cardiff was reduced. The Director advised that the targets were reduced slightly because there was an incentive; when considering regulated placements in and outside of Cardiff the numbers for those being placed out of Cardiff was increasing because more and more children were being placed with kinship and family. Our aim is to shift balance so that more children are living with family and friends and also to make sure children are not placed in residential placements outside of area.

Members asked for the information to be added to the Chart included with the report.

- Members queried the reference to the Social Worker vacancy target being 24% and the Social Worker vacancy 28.2 percent and asked for clarification of those figures. Members were advised that the aim is to reduce the vacancies, which are covered currently by agency staff. Currently the figure is 27%, 24% is the goal.
- Members requested information regarding identification likely to create a spike in Child Protection referrals when children and young people are back in the school system and how the system is geared up to cope with that increased demand.

The Director advised that there has been a huge increase in demand across the board. The figures do show this, it is predominantly because we have not been able to work in partnership during Covid, lots of the services have not been open. There has not been any scope to safely carry out Progression Plans in order to deregister children. People have quite rightly been taking a precautionary approach. Temporary funding from Welsh Government has allowed us to employ Social Work Assistants to support the Social Workers. 4 teams have been created in the localities as demand was so great. It had been hoped to employ some Adult Social Workers, Substance Misuse Workers, and Domestic Abuse Workers. They will be important in working with the parents. There has also been a big change in the Court work; do not get to Court unless the Authority wants the child or children removed from their family. As a result there will be a shift in the work force with the aim is to progress multi-disciplinary teams to wrap around the family.

- Members referred to Staff sickness absence and the difference between those in Children's and Adult Services, which has crept up above 13% again. Adult Service is about 8 – 8.5%. The Director advised that there was an increase during the last quarter, but the figure is now back within target going into the next quarter. Sickness absence is monitored closely; there are not many people on long term sick but it has been impacted by Covid and those who have had underlying health conditions.
- Members queried the increased budget for Children's Services this year and the increased resources, and whether that is sufficient to meet in demand. Members were advised that there has been increased demand over the last 9 months; it is hoped that demand will not continue to rise. The increase in resources means that we can link into performance reporting and the focus will be on shifting some of the budget out of residential and fostering and kinship which could help give families some additional financial help to support their own children.

RESOLVED – That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations during the Way Forward.

26 : WAY FORWARD

Members discussed the information received and identified a number of issues which the Chairman agreed would be included in the letters that would be sent, on behalf of the Committee, to the relevant Cabinet Members and Officers.

27 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

No urgent items were received at this meeting.

28 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is to take place on Tuesday 11 May 2021. The venue is to be confirmed.

The meeting terminated at 8.00 pm

**CYNGOR CAERDYDD
CARDIFF COUNCIL**

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 June 2021

SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Purpose of Report

1. This report seeks Committee's approval for the first combined Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21, attached at **Appendix A**, prior to consideration by Full Council on 24 June 2021.

Background

2. Cardiff Council's Constitution requires all Scrutiny Committees to report annually to the Council on their work during the past year and make recommendations for future work programmes.
3. The Committee's task and finish inquiry on Scrutiny Impact proposed that a model to capture the impact of the work of the scrutiny function over the year be adopted by Cabinet.
4. The recommendation was accepted and the organisation has a new performance monitoring process in place that both:
 - Captures the impact of Scrutiny by monitoring recommendations from Committees, Task Groups and Panels; and
 - Supports 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 construction of the first combined Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21 to Council.

Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21

6. The key drivers for a change in approach to reporting the activity of the Council's 5 scrutiny committees have been:
 - A recommendation following an Internal Audit report of Scrutiny Services
 - The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 emphasis on participation and engagement;
 - 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 2020/21. It focuses on the difference made to residents, visitors, staff and businesses within the context of a Covid-19 operational environment. 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. If agreed by Council the report will be 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.

Way Forward

10. During their meeting, Members may wish to consider the first joint Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21, attached at **Appendix A**, and suggest any

amendments required to the draft document prior to its consideration by Council on 24 June 2021.

Legal Implications

11. 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

12. 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

The Committee is recommended to consider, if necessary amend, and approve the draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21, attached at **Appendix A**, to be laid before Council.

Davina Fiore

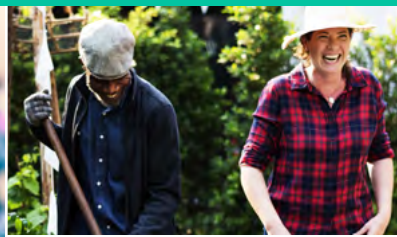
Director of Governance & Legal Services

8 June 2021



Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21

Scrutiny ... engaging today ... shaping tomorrow



Welcome to Cardiff's Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21

With a fresh approach to reporting the difference Scrutiny has made this year, we hope that a little reading time will deliver a lot of insight into the work of the Council's Scrutiny function. In a year like no other the five scrutiny committees have been working on behalf of Cardiff citizens, seeking reassurance that frontline Council services defining our pandemic response are delivered effectively and where they are most needed.

This year, like many Council services, Scrutiny has delivered against the odds. Our mission? To adapt and seize the opportunity to add value to the Council's decision-making in challenging times. In reality, the pandemic has impacted heavily on normal scrutiny output. To deliver our role we have conducted scrutiny by holding remote online meetings, enabling all scrutiny members to contribute to key policy decisions. With the organisation in essential services mode for most of the year, our usual task and finish inquiry work has taken a back seat, as frontline services were a priority. We particularly look forward to resuming those inquiries as the organisation adapts to the new world, embracing all it has learned in a time of crisis.

Scrutiny is the challenging voice of the resident, visitor, commuter and employee at the decision making table to ensure full accountability

The pandemic fully upon us, by June 2020 it became clear that temporary scrutiny arrangements should be put in place and the five scrutiny committees were quickly consolidated into a Covid-19 Scrutiny Panel. Membership was restricted to the five scrutiny chairs, whilst maintaining close communication with their respective committees ensured all scrutiny member influence. Such improvements in cross committee working delivered a slick solution until the Council decided that a

full scrutiny service could restart in September 2020, with a restricted remit to focus only on pre-decision and priority matters with reputational or time-critical implications.

Scrutiny is the challenging voice of the resident, visitor, commuter and employee at the decision making table to ensure full accountability. Our work continues whatever the external environment. The next municipal year will bring more challenges, remote working will continue to be important. Within Cardiff Council our critical friend work, expressing your voice to test the delivery of key Council commitments, is very much valued. We hope this report captures how we have done this year. We want to encourage you to add your voice to our work and later in the report we explain how you can get involved.



Scrutiny Chairs - Our Perspective



“One of the things I’m most proud of this year is the Community and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee’s focus on the salient issues impacting Cardiff residents in the current climate. We provide opportunity to bring together a whole range of stakeholders, from those impacted by the issue to those who are directly involved in delivering services.”

Cllr Shaun Jenkins, Chair, Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

[To hear more on scrutiny from me click here](#)



“We’ve had to make adjustments during the past year, but everyone has come to the fore and delivered. One of our key issues has been scrutinising the Youth Justice Service following the HMIP Report and Inspectors highlighted our role as a key factor in improvements, which was a really proud moment for me as Chair during this year. My Committee has also been critical in scrutinising decisions made in relation to the return to education for our young people throughout this year.”

Cllr Lee Bridgeman, Chair, Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee

[To hear more on scrutiny from me click here](#)



“...this has been an incredibly challenging year but we’ve coped very well, which is testament to how well Members, external stakeholders and the Cabinet have engaged, wanting to be there to help the Council through what is a very, very difficult time. We’ve provided some robust questioning, helping to shape major developments and explored how the Council and partners are working to recover from the impact of the Covid pandemic, in the leisure and music sector and more generally across the economy...”

Cllr Nigel Howells, Chair, Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee

[To hear more on scrutiny from me click here](#)



“All 5 Scrutiny Committees work together to deliver the best for Cardiff, and we are constantly listening to the public and what they want.

One of our biggest achievements during the pandemic was “One Planet Cardiff”. We had a large number of external and internal witnesses taking part, who shared their knowledge on what the future of Cardiff should look like. I was really pleased with the support from everyone who gave evidence.”

Cllr Ramesh Patel, Chair, Environmental Scrutiny Committee

[To hear more on scrutiny from me click here](#)



“...a Scrutiny Covid-19 Panel of all chairs was formed and I was asked to chair it. We came together as a team. Previously committees have tended to operate in isolation, but this time we had to work collectively and I think we did that exceptionally well, resulting in certain recommendations that were accepted.

We also have a Performance Panel involving all chairs that looks at the Corporate Plan before it’s finalised and a number of recommendations we made turned into changes to the Corporate Plan.”

Cllr David Walker, Chair, Policy Review & Performance Committee

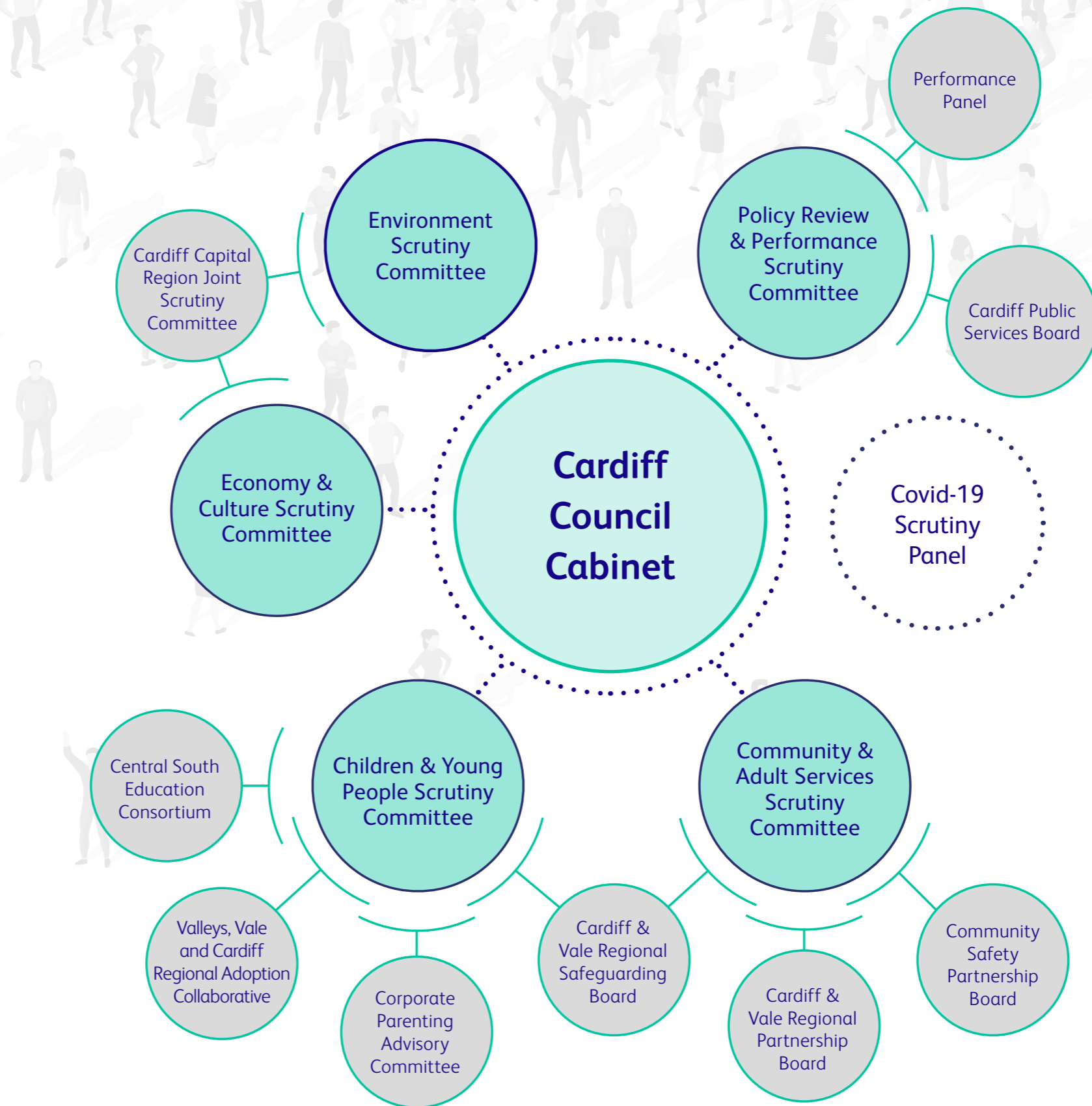
[To hear more on scrutiny from me click here](#)

Our governance role

Cardiff Council's five Scrutiny Committees fulfil a statutory responsibility placed on local authorities by UK and Welsh Governments to review and scrutinise decisions and actions taken by the Cabinet in relation to the delivery of services, to improve the wellbeing of residents. We also have various statutory responsibilities for the scrutiny of important partnerships established under Welsh Government legislation. In short we shine a light on the effectiveness of local partnership working in which the Council plays a leading role.

The Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee has statutory responsibility for scrutiny of Cardiff's Public Services Board. The Community and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee has responsibility for scrutiny of both the Cardiff & Vale Regional Partnership Board and a statutory duty to scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, on Crime and Disorder matters by engaging with the Community Safety Partnership Board. The Economy and Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committees monitor progress of the City Deal delivery programme, whilst the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee has a governance role in the Central South Education Consortium, the Valleys Vale and Cardiff Regional Adoption Panel and the Council's Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee.

Each Scrutiny Committee is made up of 9 elected Members. However the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee additionally has four co-opted members comprising two parent governor representatives, a Roman Catholic representative and a Church-in-Wales representative. Both the Economy and Culture and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committees offer a seat to a representative of the Cardiff Youth Council, enabling young voices to challenge decision-making.



A year of socially distanced scrutiny

On screen, focussed and representing Cardiff voices. Scrutiny has been working hard to deliver better engagement, better outcomes, and better decision-making in 2020/21. Often underpinned by valuable primary research, here are just some of our achievements this year:

■ Covid-19 Scrutiny Panel - responding quickly to support essential service delivery mode

A challenging backdrop gave birth to the Covid-19 scrutiny panel. The suspension of all scrutiny committees at first lockdown led swiftly to establishing the Covid-19 Scrutiny Panel. The Panel explored how the Council was responding to the pandemic and planning for recovery, as well as testing time-critical decisions, providing appropriate scrutiny until the 5 scrutiny committees recommenced remotely. The Panel:

- Examined work undertaken during the lockdown to tackle homelessness and housing supply, as well as work to ensure the Council's finances were secure.
- Scrutinised proposals to help Cardiff restart after lockdown and recover from the pandemic, as well as work underway to establish a Race Equality Task Force.
- Tested time-critical proposed recommendations for schools in Cardiff, including in Plasdŵr.
- Considered the Council's final report on its finances for 2019/20 and checked proposals for the re-procurement of construction and civils consultancy frameworks.



■ Performance Panel - co-production and independent scrutiny of the Corporate Plan 2021-24.

Cardiff Council has a history of investing in robust internal challenge, and this year has seen stronger links forged between Cabinet & Scrutiny, stepping up the work of the PRAP Performance Panel. In a spirit of open engagement the family of five scrutiny committees, represented by its chairs, joined the Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation and Performance in two important round table discussions centred on the Council's highest strategic document, the Corporate Plan. In December 2020 the Panel reviewed the Council's mid-year performance against Corporate Plan targets and informed early Cabinet conversations around

2021-24 target setting. Then, in February 2021, we reviewed the draft Corporate Plan at its policy development stage, and focussed on the detail of target setting. Such a collaborative approach ensures that the Corporate Plan is subject to co-production as well as independent scrutiny and acknowledges the benefit of progressive interaction between Cabinet policy development and Scrutiny. Importantly, through such informal discussion, Scrutiny is afforded an impact on the Corporate Plan for the benefit of Cardiff citizens, evidenced by the changes made to the Corporate Plan by the Cabinet following these Panel Meetings.

“I’d like to put on record my thanks to the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees who have served on the Covid-19 Scrutiny Panel”

Cllr Huw Thomas – Council 23 June 2020

“

“Cabinet are grateful to the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees who have been able to take part in the Covid-19 Scrutiny Panel – it’s been essential during this very strange time for running Council business”

Cllr Weaver – Council 23 June 2020

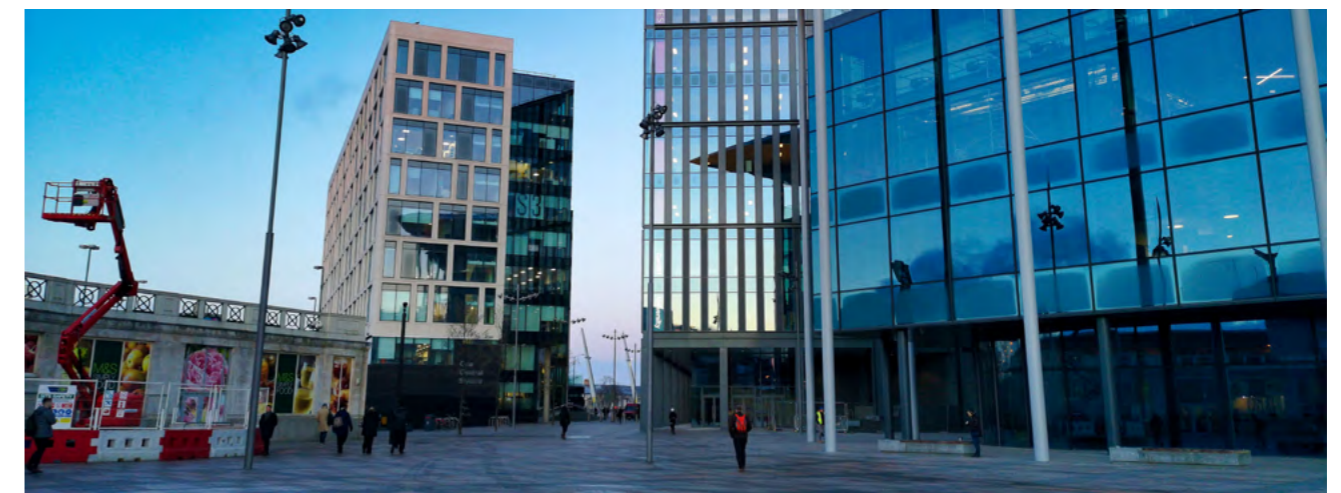




■ Strengthening Decisions

We brought strong voices to the decision-making table across all five scrutiny committees by undertaking policy development and pre-decision scrutiny of significant strategic topics such as the Council's 21st Century Schools Programme and One Planet Cardiff. All committees have extensively

scrutinised the Council's proposed spending plans for 2021/22, especially important as our schools, local economy and care services recover from the pandemic.



■ Testing the Pandemic Recovery

Scrutiny's essential role this year has been providing a check and balance on the Council's immediate response to the pandemic, ensuring that it met the needs of residents, businesses and visitors. Our work continues, monitoring how the Education Service and Schools have responded to the Covid-19 Pandemic, and its plans for Recovery; hearing from

external witnesses about the impact on Leisure, Youth Sports and Music Sectors and exploring the role of the Council and its partners in how best to tackle this; scrutinising Major Projects to test their contribution to green recovery and to tackling inequalities; and engaging with service users to ensure their voice is heard during recovery planning.

■ Challenging Service Provision

Though socially distanced our challenge of critical frontline Council services has continued.

- The **Environmental Scrutiny Committee** has focussed on the Waste Management service as the Council introduced changes to collection arrangements; the Household Waste Recycling Centre in North Cardiff; and how the service responded to Covid-19. Transportation matters were also a priority, including 20mph Zones and the Waungron Road Transport Hub.
- The **Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee** assessed how the council is addressing social isolation and loneliness following the outbreak of Covid-19, monitored the council's commitment to deliver 1,000 new council homes by 2022 and analysed the extent of drug dealing and drug related crime in Cardiff following the outbreak of Covid-19.
- The **Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee** investigated the approach to playground provision and maintenance, advocating for children with additional needs, adventure playgrounds and highlighting the role of Ward Members in consultation process. For some time the Committee has lobbied for improved provision of park rangers. Our work has resulted in 2 new posts in this year's budget.
- The **Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee** has monitored progress in relation to the Youth Justice Service, following the inspection of the service in 2020, including the implementation of the "All Our Futures" Strategy and Action Plan.
- The **Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee** has closely monitored the 2020/21 budget and sought greater integration with the work of Cabinet initiatives such as the new Race Equality Task Group.

Strong voices - your role in our work

Scrutiny is the voice of the people of Cardiff inside the Council. We work to ensure that the Council and its partners are delivering the right policies and services to benefit Cardiff’s citizens. We do this by:

- Seeking to understand the views and experiences of customers, service users and carers, using workshops, focus groups and survey results to gather feedback.
- Inviting partners, representatives and external experts to contribute evidence to broaden our understanding and inform our discussions.
- Having an independent, dedicated research service to collect robust stakeholder and/ or document based evidence to inform our work.
- Having co-optees on our Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee, representing parent governors, Catholic Dioceses, Church in Wales and Cardiff Youth Council co-optees on this Committee and the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee.
- Questioning the decision makers, managers and experts.
- Ensuring transparency, by webcasting our committee meetings – [click here](#).

Some examples of our work involving stakeholders are:

- » Holding focus groups and face to face interviews with parents of children with learning disabilities who may, or have, undergone a transition from an out of county provision.
- » Stakeholders attending committee to contribute to discussions on Social Isolation and Loneliness, One Planet Cardiff, Youth Justice Service, leisure services and the music sector in Cardiff

In the last year, we have worked with the following stakeholders:

- Age Connects – Cardiff & Vale
- British Red Cross
- Bus and Coach Companies and Bus User representatives
- Cardiff Council Cabinet Members and Officers
- Cardiff Metropolitan University
- Cardiff Music Board Members
- Cardiff University
- Cardiff Youth Council
- Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
- Dŵr Cymru
- FOR Cardiff BID
- Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL)
- Natural Resources Wales
- Representatives for religious communities
- Representatives for young adults
- Sport Cardiff
- Sport Wales
- South Wales Police
- Sustrans
- Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative
- Wales & West Utilities
- Welsh Government

We work to ensure that the Council and its partners are delivering the right policies and services to benefit Cardiff’s citizens



How to get involved..

Now, more than ever, we want to make sure our work in the coming year is reflective of the needs and wants of Cardiff residents and we welcome any suggestions, big or small, on areas which you would like us to investigate.

As a Cardiff resident, you can:

- Identify issues for scrutiny to look at
- Provide evidence to inform scrutiny – either in writing or in person
- Contribute to consultations, surveys, workshops and/ or focus groups
- Be invited to be a co-opted member of a Scrutiny Committee. In this role, you would work alongside elected Scrutiny Committee Members in supporting the development and review of Council policies.

We ask that you direct your suggestions to our dedicated support team at: scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk

We are currently in the process of updating the Scrutiny Services webpages to make it easier for you to become involved in scrutiny. Please check the Council’s website for updates before the end of this year. [click here](#).

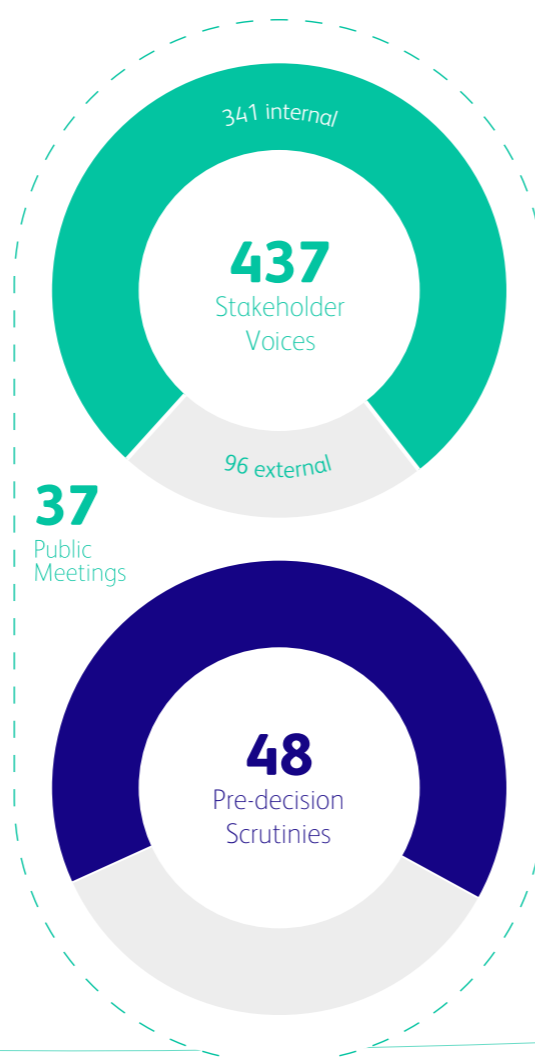
Scrutiny in Numbers



There are currently **75 councillors** elected to Cardiff Council to represent the residents of Cardiff. Of those, **45 are nominated to sit on 5 scrutiny committees** and provide critical friend challenge to the Cabinet.

Successful scrutiny means asking questions of the right people, those that have a stake in the decision to be taken or the policy under review. Often referred to as witnesses, stakeholders can be cabinet members, senior managers and council officers. Importantly they often include service users and external organisations or groups with a stake in the issue being discussed. **In 2020/21 of the 437 voices that informed our scrutiny work, 341 were internal to the Council and 96 were external.**

In 2020/21 Cardiff's Cabinet made 74 decisions. Scrutiny committees considered 48 of those, which means **65% of decisions were taken with the benefit of full challenge and accountability.**



Cardiff Council is committed to allowing stakeholders full insight into its decision making. All our scrutiny committees are **publically broadcast and can be found on the Council's website**, where they are available to view for up to 6 months.

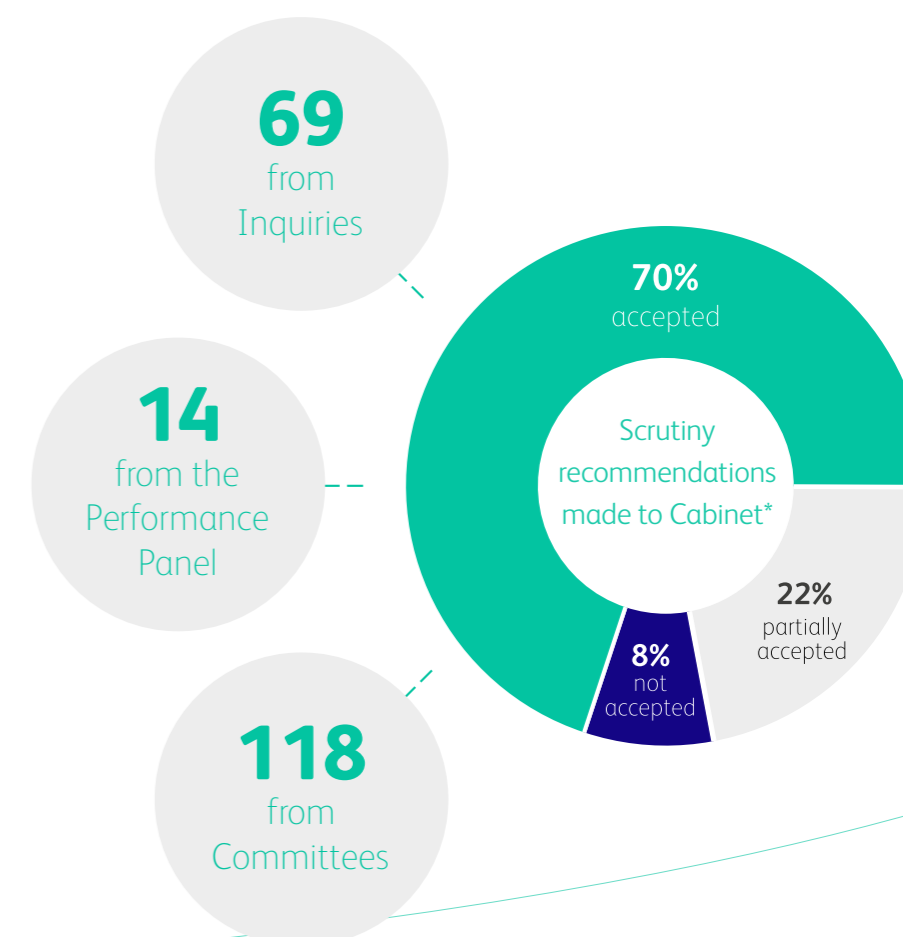
[Click here](#)



Cardiff's Covid-19 Scrutiny Panel in action.



In 2020/21 Scrutiny Committees made a **total of 201 recommendations to Cabinet from 3 different routes**, Task & Finish Inquiries, Committee, and the Performance Panel. Of the responses received Cabinet accepted 92, partially accepted 29 and did not accept 10.



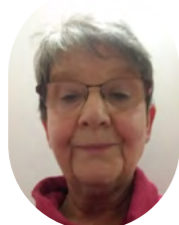
*Not including pending responses.

Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

Our Membership



Councillor Shaun Jenkins (Chair)



Councillors Ali Ahmed; Joe Carter; Andrea Gibson;
Ashley Lister; Philippa Hill-John; Sue Lent;
Norma Mackie and Mary McGary.

Our Purpose

- We work to improve the Council's services and policies in the areas of community and adult services. This includes matters which relate to housing, neighbourhood renewal, community safety, mental health, community services and adult social care.
- The Committee also serves as the Council's Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, reviewing actions taken by the Community Safety Partnership to address local issues of crime and disorder.
- We monitor the effectiveness of who the Council works with, its performance levels, how resources are spent, the effectiveness of measures in place and look to identify possible areas for improvement.

Our Achievements

- Throughout the year we have assessed how services supporting adults with care and support needs have responded to the pandemic along with their plans for recovery. We have strived to ensure that the long-term health and well-being impacts of Covid-19 on Cardiff's adult population are adequately recognised and resourced. We have done this by continually seeking assurance and information from Council officials in order to assess the plans in place.
- Given the significant well-being ramification of the Covid-19 pandemic, we undertook in-depth scrutiny of social isolation and loneliness faced by the adult population of Cardiff. Assessing the measures put in place by the Council to address this significant issue. Our work included input from a range of external witnesses and led to a recommendation for the Council to review its communication on key public health messages and support opportunities to ensure Cardiff residents, and key partners, are better aware of available services and initiatives.

- We have continued to monitor the Council's target to deliver 1,000 new Council homes by 2022 and have been involved in influencing the update of the Council's Design Standards document. Helping to ensure that each property developed by the Council, is of a high quality and adds a real, and lasting positive impact for future residents and communities.
- We submitted 30 recommendations to the Council's Cabinet designed to improve transition arrangements for adults with a learning disability who live in out of county provision and may undergo a transition back into county. Our recommendations included measures to help ensure clear, transparent communication at every stage of the process, procedures to help identify gaps in local service provision and processes to monitor the quality and skills of an individual post transition.



“

“Thank you for one of the best scrutiny sessions I have come across because of the targeted nature of your questions”

Police & Crime Commissioner, Alun Michael & Cllr Lynda Thorne, Co-Chairs of the Community Safety Leadership Board

“We welcome Cardiff Council's decision to investigate the issue of social isolation and are grateful for the opportunity to present our findings”

British Red Cross

“Thank you for the opportunity to present to Committee and for the useful feedback that you have provided.”

Cllr Susan Elsmore, Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health & Well-being.

“Thank you for your positive response to the ambitious plans for the Council House Build Programme. I am very grateful to the Committee for considering this programme and for providing feedback”

Cllr Lynda Thorne, Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities.

Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee

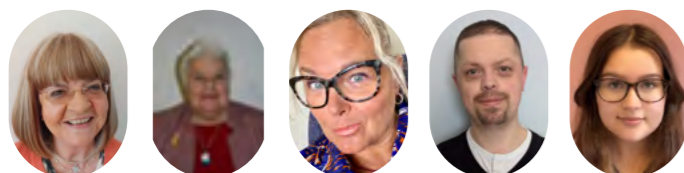
Our Membership



Councillor Lee Bridgeman (Chair)



*Councillors Stephen Cunah; Robert Hopkins; Heather Joyce;
Sian-Elin Melbourne; Bablin Molik; Mike Phillips;
Mia Rees; Kanaya Singh*



*Co-optees: Patricia Arlotte (Roman Catholic representative);
Carol Colbert (Church in Wales Rep); Karen Dell'Armi (Parent
Governor Rep); Matthew Richards (Parent Governor Rep); Mia
John (Cardiff Youth Council Rep)*

Our Purpose

- We work to improve the Council's services and policies in the area of children and young people, which includes Schools; Children's Social Services; Youth Services and Justice; and relevant support services (Education and Schools support services etc.)
- We monitor the effectiveness of who the Council works with in this area, including how resources are spent;
- We ensure that key Council Policies in this area such as Cardiff 2030 Vision for Education & Learning; 21st Century Schools Programme; Social Care Commissioning Strategy; and Corporate Parenting Strategy are developed and put in place; and
- We make recommendations to the Council's decision-makers to enhance performance and service delivery.

Our Achievements

- Youth Justice Service - the Committee monitored progress in relation to the Youth Justice Service, following the inspection of the service in 2020. This included the implementation of the "All Our Futures" Strategy and Action Plan. The Committee received bi-monthly reports on progress relating to governance; performance of the Youth Justice Board; Performance measures; Service Improvements; Consultation and Engagement; and improved joined up working within and outside the Service. Improvements to the Youth Justice Service is a long-term issue, and the Committee is an integral part of monitoring and reviewing improvements to the Service, and more importantly, improving outcomes for young people within the Service. The Committee's work to date has been acknowledged by HMIP. The Committee will hold an informal session with young people in the YJS in May 2021 to gauge their thoughts and views.

- Education & Schools Pandemic Response and Recovery - since July 2020, the Committee has been monitoring how the Education Service and Schools have responded to the Covid-19 Pandemic, and its plans for Recovery. This has included school safety; ensuring learning and attainment for all; learning from experience and good practice; planning and preparing; funding and budget implications; examinations and assessments; consultation; Post 16 education; and mental health and well-being. During 2021/22, the Committee will continue to monitor pandemic recovery, particularly in ensuring that there is sustainable capacity in mental health, wellbeing and counselling services for young people.
- 21st Century Schools Programme - the Committee undertook a range of policy development and pre-decision scrutiny in relation to the 21st Century Schools Programme, including progress in relation to Band B Schools. We have made a number of observations in relation to developments in Cathays High School; Ysgol Mynydd Bychan and Willows High School. The Committee will take a proactive role in developing the Band C schools, and it has called for a Catchment Area Review, to ensure long-term future proofing of proposals.

“

“The Board is committed to open and effective governance, and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee are an important constituent of the governance landscape.....I am clear of the Board's commitment to working closely with the Scrutiny Committee as part of the governance commitments the Public Services Board made in 'All our futures'. ”

Graham Robb, Independent Chair of the Youth Justice Board

“I welcome the Committee's contribution and recognise its role as a key partner in ensuring that all young people in Cardiff have an outstanding service which they can rely on to improve their life chances..... and am committed to an open and transparent working relationships going forward.”

CLlr Graham Hinchey, Cabinet Member for Children & Families



Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee

Our Membership



Councillor Nigel Howells (Chair)



Councillors Jane Henshaw; Iona Gordon; Gavin Hill-John;
Chris Lay; Thomas Parkhill; Adrian Robson;
Abdul Sattar; Ed Stubbs.



Youth Council
Representative –
Eshaan Rajesh

Our Purpose

- We drive improvement across economic development, regeneration, parks, leisure, sports, libraries, hubs, culture, events and tourism.
- We hold to account those in charge, to make sure decisions are transparent and right for Cardiff.
- We listen to people who live and work in Cardiff, using their views and experiences to inform our scrutiny to help ensure the Council and partners deliver the right services for citizens.
- We make recommendations to enhance performance and service delivery.

Our Achievements

- Leisure & Youth Sports – the Committee explored how partners are responding to the impact of the pandemic on leisure and youth sports in Cardiff, hearing from Cardiff Metropolitan University, Sport Cardiff, Sport Wales and GLL, as well as considering research by scrutiny officers. Following a recommendation by committee, officers raised the issue of consistent access to schools, to support delivery during the pandemic, with Welsh Government and other key forums.
- Music Sector – the Committee gave Cardiff Music Board Members a platform to discuss what needs to happen to help their sector recover from the pandemic. Following recommendations by the Committee, the Council's Leader wrote to the Welsh Government requesting a recovery strategy be established with the sector and raising the need to lobby UK Government for music industry-specific help. The Leader also confirmed the Council would work with the Cardiff Music Board to address additional points raised by Members.

- Corporate Plan & Budgetary Proposals – following recommendations by the Committee, the Corporate Plan was strengthened by including a section on Brexit and amending a key performance indicator. Members were pleased to note budgetary proposals included 2 new Park Ranger posts, something they have been lobbying for since 2017.
- Playground Maintenance – Playgrounds are vital for children's health and development. The Committee looked at how the Council maintains playgrounds, including drainage. We highlighted the need for accessible playgrounds, which meet the needs of children with disabilities, and for adventure playgrounds. Following our recommendations, officers contacted other local authorities to understand how they had developed adventure playgrounds and committed to consulting ward Members re playground drainage costs and solutions.



“

“Thank you for the opportunity to attend scrutiny committee to discuss the impact that Covid is having on the Sport, Leisure and Physical Activity sector in Cardiff. I appreciated the interest shown by the members of the committee”

CIlr Peter Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure

“Please extend my thanks to the Chair and the panel for the opportunity to discuss these important issues.”

Rhys Jones, GLL, Head of Service - Cardiff

“It was really welcome to be able to discuss a controversial subject in a diligent and pragmatic manner.” - Castle Street Scrutiny

CIlr Caro Wild, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning & Transport

“The opportunity to present to the Committee the wider challenges facing the live music sector in Cardiff and Wales throughout this pandemic was very much welcomed, as I know that this sector in particular has been hit hard.” ‘Thank you again for inviting me and colleagues to attend the Scrutiny Committee meeting.”

CIlr Huw Thomas, Council Leader

“Thank you for your letter dated 23 February 2021 and the useful comments raised..(and) for your support in the budget process”

CIlr Chris Weaver, Cabinet Member Finance, Modernisation and Performance

“I continue to be grateful for the time that your Committee dedicates to the important projects that my portfolio is bringing forward. I remain grateful for the support that the Committee continues to provide.” - Indoor Arena Scrutiny

CIlr Russell Goodway, Cabinet Member for Investment & Development

Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Our Membership



Councillor Ramesh Patel (Chair)



Councillors Bob Derbyshire; Owen Jones; John Lancaster;
Jacqueline Parry; Thomas Parkhill; Oliver Owen;
Emma Sandrey; Peter Wong.

Our Purpose

- We work to improve the Council's services and policies in the area of environmental sustainability, which includes Waste Management, Planning, Environmental Health and Transportation;
- We monitor the effectiveness of who the Council works with in this area, including how resources are spent;
- We ensure that key Council Policies in this area such as One Planet Cardiff, Clean Air Strategy, Recycling Services Strategy, Green Infrastructure Plan and Local Development Plan are developed and put in place; and
- We make recommendations to the Council's decision-makers to enhance performance and service delivery.

Our Achievements

- One Planet Cardiff – the Committee considered the “One Planet Cardiff” Strategy, which is the Council's strategic response to the declared Climate Emergency. This in-depth scrutiny investigation included input from a wide range of stakeholder groups and resulted in a number of recommendations including those in relation to Partnership and Governance; Behaviour Change; Covid Resilience; Local Development Plan; Food; Water; Education; Resources; Transport; Future Energy Solutions; Procurement; and Regulation & Policy .
- Waste Management Service – during 2020/21, the Committee undertook a range of scrutiny investigations in this area, including waste collection changes; Household Waste Recycling Centre in North Cardiff; and monitoring the Covid-response in relation to this Service.
- Transportation – during 2020/21, the Committee looked at a number of transportation issues including 20mph Zones; and Waungron Road Transport Hub

“

“The response from Scrutiny regarding 20mph zones in Cardiff is very welcome in that more speed enforcement is required for completeness...we propose to continue our dialogue with the Police/GoSafe and Welsh Government to identify a solution acceptable to all for 20mph speed limits”

Cllr Caro Wild, Cabinet Member Strategic Planning & Transport

“The Environmental Scrutiny Committee's examination of the (One Planet Cardiff) work, which included very informative input from third party commentators, formed a significant part of our overall public consultation exercise for the strategy.”

Cllr Michael Michael, Cabinet Member Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment

“I know that Cabinet see great merit in the early involvement of Scrutiny in shaping policy and budget commitments. However, there are some practical challenges to consider such as the timing of any budget settlements from the Welsh Government. Steps were taken this year to broaden the Performance Panel to include policy / performance and budgetary issues. Looking forward, this may inform individual scrutiny committees to consider which budgetary issues warrant further early consideration in order to contribute to the revenue and capital budget proposals which will deliver a balanced budget for 2022/23 and beyond.”

Cllr Chris Weaver, Cabinet Member Finance, Modernisation & Performance



Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee

Our Membership



Councillor David Walker (Chair)



Councillors Ali Ahmed, Rodney Berman;
Bernie Bowen-Thompson, Jayne Cowan, Elizabeth Henshaw,
Ashley Lister and Norma Mackie.

Our Purpose

- We assist the Council in creating solid foundations to deliver its services successfully. With the customer in mind we act as a critical friend on the inside, challenging the back office support services on which frontline services depend, seeking assurance that the Council is using its money, property and staff resources to deliver the best services.
- Our aim is to maximise customer experience by scrutinising policies, plans and programmes. We are looking for good performance against the aims and objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.
- We report our findings to the Cabinet by making recommendations we consider would enhance Council performance and the effectiveness of its policies.

Our Achievements

- Following substantial primary research, this year we submitted the findings of our inquiry on Scrutiny Impact to the Cabinet, making recommendations for capturing the value of scrutiny through monitoring its impact. We have developed a practical model that will collect data and evidence of scrutiny activity throughout the year and link with the Council's performance framework. Our model supports the Council in its response to the self-assessment requirements of the new Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 by introducing service area self-assessment of the implementation of accepted scrutiny recommendations. We hope it will reveal the value of a Scrutiny function that brings critical friend challenge with the customer at its core to the heart of the Council's decision-making.

- We have reviewed the organisation's performance and response to the demands of the pandemic in maintaining frontline services. We are looking for evidence that more agile decision making is maintained and that the Council becomes more innovative as it looks to establish flexibility between home and office working. In support we have commenced a task and finish inquiry into Homeworking and the implications for staff and managers on well-being and productivity.
- The Committee has engaged with the Council's Race Equality Taskforce, affording members a consultative voice on membership, workforce representativeness, and in translating the educational success of BAME communities into employment. It is vital that the Council leads on such topical issues.
- In a year that called for Cabinet and Scrutiny to work together, much has been achieved. The quotes from the Leader and Cabinet are testament to the breadth and value that scrutiny can add.



“

“I welcome the Committee's positive feedback regarding the Equality & Inclusion Strategy 2020-2024. I can confirm that the recommendation in relation to the production of an Executive Summary of the Strategy is accepted...”

CIlr Weaver, Cabinet Member, Finance, Modernisation & Performance

“I particularly welcome the Committee's support for the programme of work to establish Cardiff as a Dementia Friendly City..... in response to the Committee's specific request, I have agreed with Democratic Services that Dementia Friendly Training will be added to the Member's Development Programme for the year ahead.”

CIlr Huw Thomas, Council Leader

“I would like to put on record my appreciation for your continued involvement in, and contribution to, the work of the Performance Panel. Similarly, the introduction of the half-year assessment – an evaluative strategic assessment of performance to compliment the statutory year-end review – is a further example of how we have strengthened and improved our collaborative approach to performance management”

CIlr Huw Thomas, Council Leader

“I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Committee for their work in supporting the development of the Corporate Plan and the members who participated in the Performance Panel. I believe that this has strengthened policy development and performance monitoring in the Council and further enhanced the role of scrutiny. I am pleased to note that a number of the proposals made by the Performance Panel, and this Committee, have been included in the Corporate Plan.”

CIlr Huw Thomas, Council Leader

Our ongoing role in Cardiff's recovery and renewal

Scrutiny Committees are responsible for setting their own work programmes each year. We use a variety of recognised approaches to examine the topics we agree for our work programme. Approaches such as task and finish inquiries, monitoring performance, policy development and scrutiny of statutory partnerships, progress briefings and updates populate a typical scrutiny agenda each month. We adopt an approach that's right for the topic in question and within a timescale that will make a difference. We often join with other scrutiny committees where a broader scrutiny perspective would produce a better outcome.

Now is the time we start developing our work programmes and already ideas are forming. See the next page for priorities on our radar so far. This is a good time to get in touch if you have an issue you would like scrutiny to explore.

Simply e-mail us at ScrutinyViewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk



Scrutiny Priorities 2021/22

Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

- In keeping with the priority identified by Cardiff residents in Cardiff Council’s 2021 Budget Consultation, continue to assess how the Council is keeping **communities safe** and **tackling anti-social behaviour**.
- Ensure that the **long term well-being impacts of Covid-19** are adequately recognised and resourced.
- Monitor the Council’s **new vision for homelessness services** to ensure it continues to progress.
- Continue to evaluate the quality and delivery of the **Council House Build Programme**

Environment Scrutiny Committee

- Supporting the Council on its **One Planet Cardiff** journey.
- Holding to account the **Waste Management Service** to ensure recent changes to collection services have improved service provision.
- Focussing on Council initiatives to achieve the Welsh Government’s statutory **recycling** target of 70% by 2025.
- Evaluating how the **Shared Regulatory Service** is performing post pandemic
- Engaging with the Council’s review of the **Local Development Plan**

Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee

- Continuing to monitor the **Youth Justice Service** and **Children Looked After** including ensuring the recommendations in the Out of County Inquiry are implemented;
- Monitoring **Children’s Services service redesign**; resources; sickness absence; performance and demand for services
- Scrutinising Schools/**Education response** to the Pandemic Recovery
- Focussing on **School Catchment Areas** and Band B developments
- Prioritising **Mental Health and Well-being** across both Services and beyond

Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee

- Checking **Employment Services** are accessible and helping people get back into work, given the increase in unemployment caused by the pandemic
- **Cardiff’s Economy** – examining recovery plans for areas such as events, tourism, culture and sports as well as major projects and regeneration
- **Community Services** – monitoring parks, leisure, libraries and hubs, which the pandemic highlighted are critically important to people living, working and visiting Cardiff.

Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee

- Scrutinising organisational improvements evolving out of delivering Council services in the pandemic – particularly **digital progress, partnership working, financial strategy**
- Focussing on post pandemic working arrangements and support for employees – **homeworking, office accommodation, sickness absence, post-Covid safety & well-being** of employees.
- Asking how well the Council is engaging with its citizens. **Citizen Engagement Strategy, Budget Consultation** & generic approach to **Communications**.

This report is available in other languages.

Mae'r adroddiad hwn ar gael mewn ieithoedd eraill.

ی.رخأ تاغلب رفوتم ريرقتلا اذه.

Ten raport jest dostępny w innych językach.

এই প্রতিবেদনটি অন্যান্য ভাষায় উপলভ্য।

该报告可以其他语言提供。

Scrutiny ... engaging today ... shaping tomorrow



CARDIFF
CAERDYDD

CYNGOR CAERDYDD**CARDIFF COUNCIL****CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****15 June 2021**

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMMING 2021/22

Purpose of the Report

1. To advise Members of the proposed schedule of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee (CYPSC) meeting dates for 2021/22.
2. To seek Members preferences on the way forward for developing and agreeing the 2021/22 work programme.

Proposed Dates of Committee Meetings

3. At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Council on 27 May 2021, Members considered provisional dates for all committee meetings, subject to further consultation with Chairs and Committee. There are eight scheduled meetings for this Committee July 2021 – April 2022, as follows:

Tuesday 13 July 2021	Tuesday 7 December 2021
August 2021 <i>No meeting scheduled</i>	Tuesday 11 January 2022
Tuesday 14 September 2021	Tuesday 15 February 2022 (10.30am) <i>Budget proposals 2022/23</i>
Tuesday 12 October 2021	Tuesday 8 March 2022
Tuesday 9 November 2021	April 2022- Election period <i>No meeting scheduled</i>

4. Members are asked to note the following:
 - a. Committee meetings are scheduled on a Tuesday commencing at 4.30pm.
 - b. The February 2022 Committee meeting, which is dedicated to scrutiny of budgetary proposals is programmed to commence at 10.30am, rather than at 4.30pm
 - c. There is no meeting scheduled for April as the Local Government Elections take place in May 2022.

Developing an Annual Work Programme

5. The forward work programme, whilst constructed at the beginning of the municipal year, is updated and amended during the year in order to respond to urgent priorities, policy developments, and unplanned pre-decision opportunities. It also has to remain flexible and responsive in order to cover any urgent issues occurring throughout the year.
6. The first stage is to identify potential work programme items for consideration and prioritisation by Committee Members by:
 - seeking suggestions from all Members and officers;
 - reviewing the items recommended by the previous Committee;
 - reviewing corporate documents, forthcoming legislation, the work programmes of relevant auditors, inspectors and regulators and partnership, consortia and regional documents;
 - checking other relevant documentation to identify areas within the terms of reference for the Committee; and
 - encouraging public engagement/ suggestions to explore
7. Following the preparation of a list of potential items, Committee Members will need to prioritise the items, given the range of subject areas covered by the Committee, the limitations of support available and meetings programmed.

8. Traditionally, Members prioritise items where scrutiny can have most impact, that are of importance to the public, that will help to deliver improved performance and that are not being investigated by other routes. This ensures that the time and resources available to the Committee are most effectively used.
9. Members have used a variety of approaches to work programming, such as holding an informal work programming forum to consider and prioritise items, or using online communication through the Chair and Principal Scrutiny Officer. Proposals, whether developed by forum or online, are presented to the full committee in September for formal approval of the work programme.

Way Forward

10. During the meeting, Members may wish to:
 - a. note the proposed dates for CYPSC July 2021 – March 2022;
 - b. discuss and agree the approach to developing the Committee's work programme for 2021-22, so that a draft of the programme is brought back to the Committee in September 2021 for formal approval; and
 - c. put forward particular issues of interest for inclusion in the Committee's work programme development.

Legal Implications

11. 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

12. 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

The Committee is recommended to:

- I. Note the proposed dates for CYPSC; and
- II. Agree an approach to developing the Committee's work programme for 2021-22.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance and Legal Services

8 June 2021