

**CABINET RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE POLICY
REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
ENTITLED 'SCRUTINY IMPACT ASSESSMENT MODEL'**

**FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE
(COUNCILLOR CHRIS WEAVER)**

AGENDA ITEM: 2

Reason for this Report

1. To set out the Cabinet's response to the report of the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee, entitled 'Scrutiny Impact Assessment Model'.

Background

2. As part of its 2019/20 work programme, the Council's Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee established a Task and Finish Inquiry to review the impact of the Council's Scrutiny function to date and to develop a model to capture the benefits of scrutiny in the future.
3. On 11 March 2020, the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee resolved to agree the report of the Task and Finish Inquiry and to forward it on for consideration by the Cabinet at its earliest opportunity; however, the subsequent onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and related UK-wide lockdown meant that consideration of this report was delayed.

Issues

4. The report of the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee, entitled 'Scrutiny Impact Assessment Model', was received formally by the Cabinet on 17 September 2020, which agreed that a response would be prepared within the usual timescales (i.e. two Cabinet reporting cycles).
5. The report made a total of seven recommendations and a draft response by the Cabinet to each of these recommendations is set out in **Appendix A** to this report.
6. These recommendations, and the Cabinet's response to these, will assist in improving the Council's governance arrangements by embedding a

systematic approach to responding to recommendations emerging from Scrutiny Committees. This will also strengthen the Council's position in relation to the new performance and governance requirements set out in Part 6, Chapter 1 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill.

Reason for Recommendations

7. To approve the Cabinet's response to the recommendations of the report of the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee, entitled 'Scrutiny Impact Assessment Model'.

Financial Implications

8. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, but if any additional unforeseen costs arise as a result of implementation then the funding source needs to be identified prior to implementation.

Legal Implications

9. The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires the Council to consider how its proposed decisions will contribute towards meeting the wellbeing objectives set out in the Corporate Plan. Members must also be satisfied that proposed decisions comply with the sustainable development principle, which requires that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
10. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill, which was agreed by the Senedd on 18th November 2020, will, when it comes into force, introduce new performance and governance requirements for Councils (in Part 6, Chapter 1), involving self-assessments of performance. As noted in the body of the report (paragraph 6 above), the recommendations of this report should support compliance with the new legislative provisions as and when they come into force.
11. There are no other direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of the report.

HR Implications

12. There are no HR implications arising from this report.

Property Implications

13. There are no property implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet is recommended to approve the draft response to the recommendations of the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee report, entitled 'Scrutiny Impact Assessment Model' as set out in Appendix A to this report.

SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Paul Orders Chief Executive
	11 December 2020

The following appendix is attached:

Appendix A: Cabinet Response to the Recommendations of the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee report, entitled 'Scrutiny Impact Assessment Model' (draft)

The following background paper has been taken into account:

[Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee report, entitled 'Scrutiny Impact Assessment Model' \(May 2020\)](#)

[Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Bill \(as passed, 18 November 2020\)](#)