

## Committee Business Report

### Reason for this Report

1. To bring to the Committee's attention three business matters:
  - a. A briefing on '*Capturing and Reporting the Impact of Scrutiny*';
  - b. An update on correspondence arising from recent scrutiny meetings;
  - c. Advise on the Forward Work Programme for June and July 2021.

### Capturing and Reporting the Impact of Scrutiny

2. Attached at **Appendix 1** is a briefing note on '*Capturing and Reporting the Impact of Scrutiny*'. The briefing note sets out that, following the work of this Committee's task group on capturing scrutiny impact, the model developed is now being implemented for capturing the impact of the work of the five scrutiny committees. Data and evidence of scrutiny activity throughout the year will be collected, supporting the Council in complying with the self-assessment requirements of the new Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
3. The briefing also sets out plans for a single Scrutiny Annual Report for 2020/21, which will be considered by this Scrutiny Committee in June 2021.

### Correspondence

4. Following each Scrutiny Committee meeting, the Chair writes on behalf of all Members, to the relevant Cabinet Member and senior officer, summing up

the Committee's comments, concerns and recommendations regarding the issues considered during that meeting. The Committee is routinely copied in to the letters when they are forwarded to the Cabinet Member. Depending on the issues highlighted, the letter usually asks for a response from the Cabinet Member to any recommendations made, and sometimes requests further information.

5. For Members information attached to this report at **Appendices 2, 3, 4 & 5** are copies of correspondence following the January and February meetings of the committee, both letters sent and Cabinet responses where received.
6. Where responses are *outstanding* the support officer continues to follow up on the Committee's behalf, particularly where the Committee has made a formal recommendation for monitoring as part of the new model and database in place to capture the impact of scrutiny. There are occasions, however, that the Committee does not formally request a response.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Scrutiny</b>	<b>Appendix</b>
20 Jan 2021	Bus Emergency Scheme 2	2a
20 Jan 2021	Cabinet Response - Bus Emergency Scheme 2	2b
20 Jan 2021	Budget Consultation	3a
20 Jan 2021	Cabinet Response – Budget Consultation	<i>outstanding</i>
20 Jan 2021	Race Equality Taskforce	4a
20 Jan 2021	Cabinet Response - Race Equality Taskforce	4b
24 Feb 2021	Corporate Plan 2021/24 & Budget 2021/22	5
24 Feb 2021	Cabinet Response - Corporate Plan 2021/24 Budget 2021/22	5b

### **PRAP Forward Work Programme – June/July 2021**

7. As part of the Council's response to the Wales Audit Office report '*Overview and Scrutiny - Fit for the Future?*' (July 2018), the Committee's Forward

Work Programme (FWP) is published quarterly on the Council's internet site.

8. The next published FWP will set out topics available for scrutiny for June and July 2021. Details of potential Cabinet Agenda Items further ahead than this have yet to be agreed. Members are invited to note the FWP at **Appendix 6**, raise any issues or concerns at the meeting, and agree publication on the Council's website.

### **Legal Implications**

9. 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 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**

10. 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.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to:

- a. reflect on the *'Capturing and Reporting the Impact of Scrutiny'* Briefing;
- b. note correspondence between the Committee and the Cabinet; and
- c. consider the proposed Forward Work Programme and approve for publication on the Council's website.

**Davina Fiore**

Director Governance & Legal

12 May 2021