

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 the meeting, Members may wish to consider the first combined 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

3 June 2021