
SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

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 presentation to 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. In previous years, each Scrutiny Committee has prepared a standalone Annual Report for presentation to Council. A combination of the following aspects has led to the decision to provide a combined Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-21:
 - a. A 2020 Internal Audit recommendation to review the format of Scrutiny Annual Reports so that performance measures and scrutiny impact are included in a clear and concise manner;
 - b. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 Part 3, which emphasises the need for the Council to encourage engagement and participation by local people in decision-making;
 - c. the need to target a wider audience with a faster, more appealing, read; and
 - d. integration with improvements to the scrutiny pages of the Council's website.

4. In addition, the recent Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee Inquiry report on capturing and reporting the impact of scrutiny led to the development of a model to collect data and evidence of scrutiny activity throughout the year. 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

5. The report attached at **Appendix A** captures the work of all five 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:
 - a. highlight how Scrutiny has influenced the way Council services are delivered;
 - b. improve stakeholder understanding and interest in Scrutiny;
 - c. explain how Scrutiny facilitates engagement and encourages public participation; and
 - d. highlight the value of Member-led/ stakeholder informed decision making.
6. The report is being taken to all five Scrutiny Committees for consideration and amendment and will then be presented to Council at its meeting on 24 June 2021.
7. Following this, the report will be available for download bi-lingually from the Council's website, in standard or large print version. The report will also offer a translation in other minority languages on request.

Way Forward

8. 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 presentation to Council on 24 June 2021.

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 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

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.

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 and Legal Services

8 June 2021