

COUNCIL

24 June 2021

REPORT OF DIRECTOR GOVERNANCE & LEGAL SERVICES

SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Reason for this Report

1. This report presents the first combined Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21 to Council, attached at **Appendix A**.

Background

2. Cardiff Council's Constitution requires all Scrutiny Committees to report annually to Full Council on their work during the past year and make recommendations for future work programmes.
3. The Council has five Scrutiny Committees, across which membership is politically proportionate in line with its membership. The committees are:
 - a. Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee
 - b. Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee
 - c. Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
 - d. Environmental Scrutiny Committee
 - e. Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee
4. Following a task and finish inquiry by the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee examining how best to capture the impact of the scrutiny function, in 2020/21 a model has been introduced in collaboration with the Cabinet that puts in place a new performance monitoring process to:
 - Capture the impact of Scrutiny by monitoring recommendations from Committees, Task Groups and Panels; and

- Support 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 development of the Council's first combined Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21.

Issues

6. The key drivers for a change in approach to reporting the activity of the Council's 5 scrutiny committees have been:
- 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;
 - The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 emphasis on the need for the Council to encourage engagement and participation by local people in decision-making;
 - 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. Following submission of this report to full Council, it is intended that the report will be made 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.

10. Accessibility has been further improved with Scrutiny Chairs recording their reflections on 2020/21 in more detail. These interviews will be uploaded to the website alongside the Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21.
11. The report attached at **Appendix A** has been approved by all five Scrutiny Committees.

Reason for Recommendations

12. To present to Full Council the first combined Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21, a new approach that replaces the five individual scrutiny committee annual reports previously produced and reported to Council.

Legal Implications

13. The Local Government Act 2000 requires authorities to set up overview and scrutiny committees. The legislative provisions for overview and scrutiny committees for Wales have been amended and supplemented by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and Regulations made thereunder. There are also specific legislative provisions relating to scrutiny of crime and disorder matters (the Police and Justice Act 2006); and Public Services Board functions (the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015). Subject to compliance with the relevant statutory provisions, the scrutiny arrangements of the Council are a matter for each Council to determine.
14. Under the Constitution, Article 6.3(d), Scrutiny Committees must report annually to the Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods, if appropriate. The format of the annual report is a matter for each scrutiny committee to determine, having regard to the views of all interested parties.

Financial Implications

15. Scrutiny Committees are empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As this annual report summarises and presents their work in 2020/21 to Full Council there are no direct financial implications at this stage.

Recommendation

Full Council is recommended to receive the Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21, attached at **Appendix A**, and note the arrangements to be made for publishing and making it available to the public.

Davina Fiore

Director Governance & Legal Services

18 June 2021

Appendices:

Appendix A: Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21