

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Purpose of Report

1. This report seeks committee's approval for the draft Environmental Scrutiny page of the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22, as attached at **Appendix A**.
2. For committee Members to note, the proposed way forward for collating the findings and recommendations to date of the Joint Task and Finish Group inquiry into the Replacement LDP Strategic Options. The terms of reference, for the inquiry is attached at **Appendix B**.

Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22

3. The 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. Since 2020/21 this constitutes one combined Scrutiny Annual Report capturing the work of five scrutiny committees.
4. The Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22 will be considered by Full Council in June 2022. It is currently being drafted and will be presented for consideration by all Chairs of Scrutiny, prior to the end of their term of office in May 2022.

5. In preparation for the final draft, each committee is requested to agree the pages that will be included for that committee. A draft page is therefore attached at **Appendix A** for this committee's approval. As previously, the page will set out committee's membership, purpose, and key achievements over the year.
6. Committee members are to note **Appendix A**, focuses on the key areas of work undertaken by this committee during 2021-22. However, other sections of the final Scrutiny Annual Report to Council will focus on the difference made to residents, visitors, staff, and businesses over the administration, highlighting 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.
7. If agreed by Council the report will be available for download bi-lingually from the Council's website, in standard or large print version and will also offer a translation in other minority languages if requested.
8. As this is the penultimate meeting of this committee in the current administration, to inform the Annual Report, Members views will also be sought on the committee's greatest achievements over the 5-year period.

Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Inquiry

9. In September 2021, the five Scrutiny Committees individually considered the draft report titled '*Cardiff Replacement Local Development Plan: Vision, Issues and Objectives, and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report*' prior to its consideration by Cabinet. Following these meetings, a collective letter capturing the concerns and observations from all five committees was sent to Cabinet.

10. Going forward the five Scrutiny Chairs considered it would be good practice to pool scrutiny expertise from all committees and continue a culture of collaboration. This was supported by the Scrutiny Committees at their October meetings, where Members agreed to progress scrutiny of the next stage of the RLDP via a Task and Finish Group. The group would be led by the Environmental Scrutiny Committee, with representation from all 5 Scrutiny Committees to ensure that all aspects affected by the RLDP could be considered.
11. At this Committee's 5 October 2021 meeting, Councillor Ramesh Patel, John Lancaster, Emma Sandrey and Peter Wong expressed an interest in sitting on the joint task group. As the Environmental Scrutiny Committee would lead the inquiry, it was agreed Councillor Ramesh Patel would Chair the inquiry.
12. The Task and Finish Group held their first meeting on 2 November 2021, where they considered the areas they wished to explore in their examination of the next stage of the RLDP, which is the consultation around the proposed Strategic Options. The developed terms of reference, agreed by all five committees at their meetings in November 2021, and are attached at **Appendix B**.
13. Since then, the Task and Finish Group has held five meetings to hear evidence from the following:
- Councillor Wild – Cabinet Member, Strategic Planning & Transport
 - Simon Gilbert – Head of Planning
 - Stuart Williams – Group Leader, Local Development Plan
 - Stuart Hardisty – Hardisty Jones Associates – *Employment & Economic Modelling*
 - Andrew Fowler – Edge Analytics – *Population Modelling*
 - Grace Boden – Edge Analytics – *Population Modelling*
 - Andy Robinson - Natural Resources Wales
 - Geoff Hobbs - Natural Resources Wales
 - Richard Mann – UWHA
 - Huw Owen - Alzheimer's Society
 - Adrian Field - For Cardiff

- Sheila Hendrickson-Brown – Cardiff Third Sector Council
- Gladys Hingco – Principal Scrutiny Research Officer.

14. As part of the Inquiry, Scrutiny Research issued a Call for Evidence, seeking stakeholder views on the consultation process and on the strategic options. A total of 18 responses were received. Two summaries, one focused on the consultation process and one on the strategic options, were presented to the Inquiry by Scrutiny Research, highlighting key findings from the responses.

15. Following the meeting in November 2021 to consider the consultation process, the Task and Finish Group sent a letter to Cllr Wild, Cabinet Member – Strategic Planning and Transport, setting out recommendations aimed at improving the ongoing consultation on the Strategic and Delivery Options. A response to this letter was received, accepting all the recommendations bar one, which was partially accepted.

16. The final evidence gathering meeting was held on 31 January 2022. At this meeting, the Task and Finish Group were informed that the scrutiny officer supporting the Inquiry was leaving the authority mid-February 2022 and that therefore there was limited resource to complete the usual Inquiry Report.

17. The Task and Finish Group considered the next stages of the Inquiry and decided it was best for the scrutiny officer to:

- focus on capturing the key findings for the Inquiry and to formulate these into matrices, indicating the evidence supporting the findings
- draft a letter to Cllr Wild, highlighting the headline findings and including the recommendations sent earlier regarding the consultation process. In addition, the matrices would be shared as attachments to evidence these findings and recommendations
- share the non-confidential Call for Evidence submissions with planning officers, to enable them to be counted and considered as consultation responses on the Strategic Options.

18. The Task and Finish Group are scheduled to meet 2 March 2022 to review the letter, key findings, recommendations, and attachments. Following any amendments, these will be presented to the Environmental Scrutiny Committee at a special committee meeting 16 March 2022, for amendment and agreement, as the host committee for the Inquiry. Once agreed by the Environmental Scrutiny Committee, the letter and its attachments will be sent to Councillor Wild and officers for their consideration when developing the consultation process for the preferred strategy, and when developing the preferred strategy itself.

Way Forward

19. During the meeting, Members may wish to consider the draft Environmental Scrutiny Committee page, attached at **Appendix A**, and provide any suggested amendments required to the draft document prior to its final consideration.

20. The Committee is asked to note the proposed way forward for collating the findings and recommendations to date of the Joint Task and Finish Group for the inquiry into the RLDP Strategic Options.

Legal Implications

21. 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

22. 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

22. The Committee is recommended to:

- I. Consider, if necessary amend, and approve the draft Environmental Committee page of the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22, attached at **Appendix A**.
- II. Highlight the committee's greatest achievements for inclusion in the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22.
- III. Note the proposed way forward for collating the findings and recommendations to date of the Joint Task and Finish Group inquiry into the Replacement LDP Strategic Options.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance & Legal Services

1 March 2022