

Committee Business Report

Scrutiny Annual Report – RLDP Inquiry - Correspondence

Reasons for this Report

1. To update Members on:
 - a. The Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22.
 - b. Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Inquiry.
 - c. Correspondence arising from recent PRAP scrutiny meetings.

Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22

2. 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.
3. 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 ending of their term of office in May 2022.
4. 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 1** for this committee's approval. As previously the page will set out membership, purpose, and achievements over the year.
5. The final Scrutiny Annual Report to Council will focus on the difference made to residents, visitors, staff, and businesses over the year, 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.

6. 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.
7. As this is the final meeting of this committee in the current administration, to inform the Annual Report, Members views are sought on the committee's greatest achievements over the 5-year period.

Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Inquiry

8. 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.
9. 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 with representation from all 5 Scrutiny Committees to ensure that all aspects affected by the RLDP could be considered.
10. At this Committee's meeting 11 October 2021, the Chair invited expressions of interest in representing the Committee on the joint task group and Councillors Norma Mackie and Joel Williams were subsequently nominated by the Chair to represent PRAP.

11. 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. They developed terms of reference, which were agreed by all five committees at their meetings in November 2021 and are attached at **Appendix 2**.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. The Task and Finish Group considered the next stages of the Inquiry and decided it was best for the scrutiny officer to:
 - a. focus on capturing the key findings for the Inquiry and to formulate these into matrices, indicating the evidence supporting the findings.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

Correspondence

19. 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 into the letters when they are forwarded to the Cabinet Member. Depending on the issues highlighted, the letter may request a response from the Cabinet Member to any recommendations made, and sometimes requests further information.

20. For Members information attached to this report are copies of correspondence following the January and February meetings of this Committee, both letters sent, and Cabinet responses received.

21. 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.

Committee	Scrutiny	Appendix
18 January 2022	Budget update & Consultation	3
	<i>Response not required</i>	
18 January 2022	Performance Management & Data Strategy	4
	<i>Response not required</i>	
23 February 2022	Corporate Plan & Budget Proposals	5a
	<i>Cabinet Response</i>	5b

Legal 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 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

23. 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

Members are recommended to:

- a. Consider, if necessary amend and approve the draft Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee page of the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22, attached at **Appendix 1**.
- b. Highlight the committee's greatest achievements for inclusion in the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22.
- c. 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.
- d. Note correspondence between the Committee and the Cabinet for January and February.

Davina Fiore

Director Governance & Legal

2 March 2022