

Scrutiny Report



Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Part 1

Date: 12 July 2019

Subject Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Elizabeth Blayney	Scrutiny and Governance Manager

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked

- 1.1 To consider the draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19 attached at **Appendix 1**, including the Planned Actions for Scrutiny for 2019/20;
- 1.2 Agree for the Scrutiny Annual Report to be submitted to Council in September for approval.

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Committees are required by the constitution to submit an Annual Report each year to Council, to review how Overview and Scrutiny has operated in the last 12 months.
- 2.2 The Annual Report is a key part of the performance management cycle for Scrutiny. It is difficult to measure the impact of Scrutiny using traditional performance measures, which count the outputs from the Scrutiny Committees but do not measure the outcomes of its work, or show whether improvements have been made as a result. The Annual Report is a more useful tool in reviewing the effectiveness of scrutiny, providing an opportunity to reflect properly on how scrutiny has operated within the last year, and identify upcoming challenges against which future performance can be measured.

- 2.3 As well as providing a commentary on scrutiny activity in the past year, the report is structured to review performance on the targets set last September, and agree priorities for the next 12 months (which will be used as the basis of our performance review next year).

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 The Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19 is attached as **Appendix 1** for consideration.

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider if the attached report provides an accurate summary of the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committees over the last 12 months. Due to the election, and the new Committee structures this section of the report has been approved by the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees in the previous term.
- 4.2 The main focus for this Committee is the actions for 2019/20. The role of monitoring these actions will be within the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, whose role is to monitor the effectiveness of the Scrutiny function throughout the year.
- 4.3 Scrutiny has undergone a major overhaul since the previous term, with a new Committee structure being adopted by the Council in May 2017. The focus has shifted to areas that we have previously been weakest in, namely Performance monitoring, holding the executive to account and Scrutiny of the PSB.
- We now have three performance Scrutiny Committees whose sole role is to focus on the performance of the service area. The next year will be a period of developing these Committees and embedding the new structure to make sure Scrutiny is making an impact.
- 4.4 The extent to which Scrutiny is making an impact is a key area of focus for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. The Committee needs to be satisfied that the actions for 2019/20 are measurable, and will ensure progress is made in improving the Scrutiny function.
- 4.5 The Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19 will be submitted to the Council for approval at its meeting on 10 September 2019.

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- The work of the Scrutiny Committees should be focused on the achievement of the objectives within the Corporate Plan, and within the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2014. The Annual Report document the work undertaken in the last 12 months and assessed the extent to which Scrutiny makes a positive impact upon the Council's delivery of services, contributes to the delivery of corporate objectives:

Well-being Objectives	Promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment	Improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities	Enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient	Build cohesive & sustainable communities
Corporate Plan Commitments	Thriving City	Aspirational People		Resilient Communities
Supporting Function	Modernised Council			

6 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
<p>Long-term</p> <p>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	<p>Are there any long term trends developing that could affect how this plan is implemented to how the actions are prioritised?</p>
<p>Prevention</p> <p>Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.</p>	<p>How are you identifying issues that may occur with the use of the self-assessment?</p> <p>Can you give us an example of how this has benefitted scrutiny in the past?</p>
<p>Integration</p> <p>Considering how public bodies' wellbeing objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</p>	<p>How does the Council's implementation of the action plan impact upon the services of other public bodies and their objectives?</p>
<p>Collaboration</p> <p>Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).</p>	<p>How are you using the knowledge / information / good practice of others to inform / influence the Council's work?</p>
<p>Involvement</p> <p>The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</p>	<p>How as a Council are we ensuring we are consistently seeking the views of those who are impacted through the implementation of the plan?</p> <p>While developing a long term strategy, how are you ensuring the diverse communities are involved in your decision making?</p>

7. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan](#)

Report Completed: July 2019