

# Scrutiny Report



## Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

### Part 1

Date: November 2023

### Subject Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23

Author Scrutiny Adviser

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

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Leanne Rowlands	Democratic and Electoral Services 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 2022-23
- 1.2 To agree for the Scrutiny Annual Report to be submitted to Council 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. 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 and agree priorities for the next 12 months (which will be used as the basis of our performance review next year).

2.4 The Scrutiny Annual Report will be submitted to the Council for approval.

### **3 Information Submitted to the Committee**

3.1 Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23.

3.2 Submitted below are comments from the Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer and Head of People, Policy and Transformation.

#### **Comments of Chief Financial Officer**

There are no financial implications arising from this report, with the activities of Scrutiny committees and the actions contained within the report being funded from within existing budgets.

#### **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

The Council is required to establish arrangements for effective overview and scrutiny in accordance with Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government Measure 2011. In accordance with the reporting arrangements set out in the Constitution, an Annual Report is presented to full Council regarding the way in which the Overview and Scrutiny arrangements have operated during the preceding 12 months. The Annual report itself raises no legal issues. Each report to and from the Committees during the year has included Monitoring Officer comments on any legal implications. The Annual Report shows that good progress has been made in delivering the targets and objectives set out in last year's Report. This work will continue throughout the current year, with a view to further strengthening scrutiny arrangements.

#### **Comments of Head of People, Policy and Transformation**

The report notes the emphasis of scrutiny on ensuring that the Council acts in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Scrutiny members continue to have training to develop their understanding and consideration of the Act when undertaking scrutiny activity.

The report also notes that the Council's scrutiny function is also responsible for scrutinising the performance of OneNewport. This function is performed by the Scrutiny Performance Committee – Partnerships and feedback is also considered by the partnership.

There are no direct HR implications arising from the report.

3.3 Submitted below is the Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment (FEIA):

#### **Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment:**

The work of the Scrutiny Committees supports the effectiveness of the Council's corporate governance and decision-making processes, helping to ensure that requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 are met and the principles of the Act are able to be properly embedded within the Council's governance and decision making structures.

They support the development of A More Equal Wales; achieving more diversity in the voices that are heard in decision-making will help to reduce inequalities. Scrutiny Committees underpin the Involvement principle of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 by supporting residents to be involved in making the decisions that affect them and considering diverse needs when developing services.

3.4 Submitted below is the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 considerations: The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015) empowers scrutiny to analyse how joint leadership behaviours affect joint delivery.

In this reporting period, the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships has scrutiny of the Public Services Board (PSB) and One Newport Partnership within its remit, which considers the effectiveness of the Partnership and its associated plans. This is reflected within the Annual Report in the summary of the Committee’s work this year.

The report also shows the new emphasis of scrutiny on ensuring that the Council acts in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

3.5 Submitted below is the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 consideration:

**Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

In this reporting period, the Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships has scrutiny of the Public Services Board (PSB) and One Newport Partnership within its remit, which considers the effectiveness of the Partnership and its associated plans. This is reflected within the Annual Report in the summary of the Committee’s work this year, showing continued work with a wide range of partners to raise the profile of the Welsh language in Newport and particularly of the work the Council delivers with One Newport stakeholders.

**4. Suggested Areas of Focus**

**4.1 Role of the Committee**

<p><b>The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider if the attached report provides an accurate summary of the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committees over the last 12 months.</li> <li>• Consider the actions for 2022/23.</li> <li>• Agree for the Scrutiny Annual Report to be submitted to Council for approval.</li> </ul>
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**4.2 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
<p><b>Long-term</b> The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	What consideration have you given to the long term trends that could affect your proposal or; how could your proposal impact these trends?
	How will the needs of your service users potentially change in the future?
<p><b>Prevention</b> Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.</p>	What is the objective (or the desired outcome) of this proposal?
	How are you addressing these issues to prevent a future problem?
	How have the decisions, so far, come about? What alternatives were considered?
<p><b>Integration</b></p>	Are there any other organisations providing similar / complementary services?

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.	Have you consulted with the health board, third sector, emergency services, businesses and anyone else you think might be impacted?
	What practical steps will you take to integrate your project with existing plans and strategies of other public organisations to help us all contribute fully to the seven national well-being goals?
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Collaboration</b></p> <p>Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).</p>	Who have you been working with? Why? Who have you collaborated with in finding out more about this problem and potential solutions?
	How are you co-working with other sectors?
	How are you using the knowledge / information / good practice of others to inform / influence the Council's work?
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Involvement</b></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>	How have you involved the people who are being impacted by this decision?
	How have you taken into account the diverse communities in your decision making?
	How have you used different / alternative methods to reach people and involve them?
	How will you communicate the outcome of your decision?

## Section B – Supporting Information

### 5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Well-being Objective	1 – Economy, Education and Skills	2 – Newport's Environment and Infrastructure	3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care	4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council
<b>Aims:</b>	Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.	A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.	Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.	Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

5.1 This report demonstrates that Scrutiny has an important role in helping the Council to achieve its expressed aims under the Corporate Plan 2022-2027 in place during the reporting period.

## 7. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2022-27](#)
- [Newport City Council - Committee details - Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee](#)
- [Newport City Council - Committee details - Performance Scrutiny Committee - Partnerships](#)
- [Newport City Council - Committee details - Performance Scrutiny Committee - People](#)
- [Newport City Council - Committee details - Performance Scrutiny Committee - Place and Corporate](#)

Report Completed: November 2023