

## Report of the Vice-Chair

### Scrutiny Programme Committee – 22 December 2014

#### SCRUTINY LETTERS

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| <b>Purpose</b>                        | To ensure the committee is aware of the scrutiny letters produced following various scrutiny activities, and responses to date.                                    |
| <b>Content</b>                        | The report includes a log of scrutiny letters produced this year and provides a copy of recent correspondence between scrutiny and cabinet members for discussion. |
| <b>Councillors are being asked to</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review the scrutiny letters and responses</li><li>• Make comments, observations and recommendations as necessary</li></ul> |
| <b>Lead Councillor(s)</b>             | Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee  |
| <b>Lead Officer(s)</b>                | Dean Taylor, Director – Corporate Services   |
| <b>Report Author</b>                  | Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Coordinator<br>Tel: 01792 637257<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk">brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk</a>                    |

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The production of scrutiny letters has become an established part of the way scrutiny operates in Swansea. Letters from the chair (or conveners) allow scrutiny to communicate directly and quickly with relevant cabinet members.
- 1.2 These letters are used to convey views and conclusions about particular issues discussed and provide the opportunity to raise concerns, ask for further information, and make recommendations. This enables scrutiny to engage with Cabinet Members on a regular and structured basis.
- 1.3 Scrutiny letters, whether they are written by the Programme Committee or conveners of panels / working groups, are published in the committee agenda to ensure awareness and enable the committee to comment on the response to the matters raised, as well as to ensure visibility across the council and public.
- 1.4 As the current municipal year progresses this report will contain a log of scrutiny letters produced to enable the committee to maintain an overview of this activity over the year – see **Appendix 1**. It also provides for discussion a copy of full correspondence of recent letters

where cabinet member responses were awaited and have now been received or where a scrutiny letter did not require a response:

- a) Letter to Cabinet Member for Education (Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel Meeting – 21 August)
- b) Letter to/from Cabinet Member for Adults & Vulnerable People (Transformation of Adult Social Services Working Group Meeting – 13 November)
- c) Letter to Cabinet Member for Education (Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel Meeting – 16 October & 10 November)
- d) Letter to/from Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration (Committee Meeting – 27 October)
- e) Letter to Cabinet Member for Education (Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel Meeting – 13 November)
- f) Letter to Cabinet Members for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration and Environment & Transport (Tourism Scrutiny Inquiry Panel Follow Up Meeting – 17 November)
- g) Letter to Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities (Affordable Housing Scrutiny Inquiry Panel Follow Up Meeting – 3 December)

- 1.5 Following an amendment to Scrutiny Procedure Rules agreed by Council on 2 December, where requested Cabinet Members are now expected to respond in writing to scrutiny letters within 21 calendar days. The response should indicate what action (if any) they intend to take as a result of the views and recommendations made.

## **2. Legal Implications**

- 2.1 There are no legal implications.

## **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications.

Background Papers: None

16 December 2014

Legal Officer: Nigel Havard  
Finance Officer: Paul Cridland