

## Report of the Vice-Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 22 December 2014

### SCRUTINY DISPATCHES – IMPACT REPORT

<b>Purpose</b>	To present a draft of the first of a quarterly series of reports from the committee to council on the impact of scrutiny.
<b>Content</b>	The report appends the draft 'Scrutiny Dispatches' report, which headlines recent activities and impact for council and public awareness.
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	approve content of the draft 'Scrutiny Dispatches' for submission to Council.
<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 Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: <a href="mailto:brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk">brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk</a>

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for the overall work programme, including the various informal scrutiny activities, and monitoring progress to ensure that the work is effective.
- 1.2 Scrutiny Dispatches was originally developed in July 2013 as a short monthly digest to provide 'headlines' from scrutiny activity and give the work of scrutiny greater visibility, both for council and public audience. Content from the Dispatches was also posted on the Swansea Scrutiny blog so that it could be shared across social media platforms to develop public engagement in scrutiny.
- 1.3 It has now been agreed that the committee should report to Council on a quarterly basis which will allow for full discussion at the meeting.

#### 2. Scrutiny Dispatches

- 2.1 The first of the quarterly reports has been drafted for approval (attached). This can then be submitted to 3 February Council meeting.

- 2.2 Further to recent discussion about improving communication and public engagement, 'Scrutiny Dispatches' is intended to demonstrate scrutiny achievements and outcomes. It will effectively be a regular report about impact and how scrutiny is making a difference, rather than a descriptive account of scrutiny activities. The aim will be to focus on and promote a small number of 'significant stories'.
- 2.3 As well as being a report to council the content will be shared more widely, with advice and support from the Council's Communications Team and utilising social media. This should help raise awareness of the work and impact of scrutiny, and hopefully encourage more public engagement and participation in scrutiny.
- 2.4 In order to ensure that people are informed more generally about the work of scrutiny a monthly information list will be produced. This list will be shared via email and on the Swansea Scrutiny blog ([www.swanseascrutiny.co.uk](http://www.swanseascrutiny.co.uk)). Initial consultations with a small number of councillors suggest that this monthly list should include details of:
- Forthcoming panel and working group meetings
  - Topics currently being looked at by scrutiny
  - Recent recommendations (i.e. from letters and inquiry reports)
  - Outcomes and impacts from scrutiny work

### **3. Legal Implications**

- 3.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

11 December 2014

Legal Officer: Nigel Havard

Finance Officer: Paul Cridland