

Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Council – 3 March 2015

SCRUTINY DISPATCHES – IMPACT REPORT

Purpose:	To present the first of a quarterly series of reports from the committee to council on the impact of scrutiny
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Access to Services Officer:	Phil Couch

FOR DISCUSSION

1.0 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 was recently agreed that the committee should report to Council on a quarterly basis which will allow for full discussion at the meeting.

2.0 Scrutiny Dispatches

- 2.1 'Scrutiny Dispatches' is intended to demonstrate scrutiny achievements and outcomes. It is effectively a regular report about impact and how scrutiny is making a difference, rather than a descriptive account of ongoing scrutiny activities. It aims to focus on and promote a small number of 'significant stories'.
- 2.2 The first of the quarterly reports is attached for council discussion – see **Appendix 1**.

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) and 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)

3.0 Equality & Engagement Implications

3.1 There are no specific equality and engagement implications raised by this report.

4.0 Financial Implications

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

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

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Background papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Dispatches