

## Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 March 2015

### SCRUTINY LETTERS

<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
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#### 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:

	Activity	Date	Correspondence
a.	Committee	22 Dec	Letter to/from Cabinet Member for Education
b.	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	14 Jan	Letter to/from Cabinet Member for Education
c.	Service Improvement & Finance Performance Panel	14 Jan	Letter to/from Cabinet Members for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration and Communities & Housing
d.	Child & Family Services Performance Panel	19 Jan	Letter to/from Cabinet Member for Services for Children & Young People
e.	Committee	19 Jan	Letter to/from Cabinet Member for Wellbeing & Healthy City
f.	Schools	22 Jan	Letter to Cabinet Member for Education
g.	Education Inclusion Inquiry Panel	16 Feb	Letter to Cabinet Member for Education

- 1.5 Where requested Cabinet Members are 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

4 March 2015

Legal Officer: Wendy Parkin

Finance Officer: Paul Cridland