



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Extraordinary Council – 5 March 2020

Scrutiny Dispatches – Quarterly Impact Report

Purpose:	To present the quarterly report from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to Council on the impact of scrutiny.
Policy Framework:	None
Consultation:	Finance, Legal, Access to Services
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Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Access to Services Officer:	Catherine Window
For Discussion	

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 The Committee is also concerned about improving communication and public engagement, and getting more coverage in the media so that the public are more aware of the work of scrutiny.
- 1.3 In order to provide 'headlines' from scrutiny activity and give the work of scrutiny greater visibility, both for Council and public audience, a quarterly 'Scrutiny Dispatches' report is published.

2. 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 scrutiny activities. The aim is to focus on and promote a small number

of 'significant stories'. A chair's roundup is also featured to highlight other work.

2.2 The quarterly report is attached for Council discussion – see **Appendix 1**.

2.3 This issue features scrutiny of:

- Cabinet Reports – Pre-decision Scrutiny
- Education Services
- Child & Family Social Services, and
- Council Budget

The chair's roundup talks about progress with the work programme, the cabinet response to Equality Scrutiny Inquiry recommendations, following up the Regional Working Inquiry, Cabinet Member Q & A sessions, and scrutiny of the Housing Commissioning Review.

2.4 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. It is anticipated that some of the impact stories within Scrutiny Dispatches will generate press releases.

2.5 In order to ensure that people are informed more generally about the work of scrutiny a monthly newsletter is also being produced. This list is shared via an email subscription (www.swansea.gov.uk/scrutinyemail), and includes details of:

- Forthcoming panel and working group meetings
- Topics being looked at by scrutiny
- Progress with current activities

3. Equality & Engagement Implications

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

4. Financial Implications

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

5. Legal Implications

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

Background papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Dispatches