



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 15 June 2021

Scrutiny Dispatches – Impact Report

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Purpose | To present a draft of the regular report from the Committee to Council on the impact of scrutiny. |
| Content | The report appends the draft 'Scrutiny Dispatches' report, which headlines scrutiny activities and impact for council and public awareness. |
| Councillors are being asked to | Approve content of the draft 'Scrutiny Dispatches' for submission to Council / inclusion in the Scrutiny Annual Report. |
| Lead Councillor(s) | Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee |
| Lead Officer(s) | Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer |
| Report Author | Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Coordinator Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: brij.madahar@swansea.gov.uk |
| Legal Officer: | Debbie Smith |
| Finance Officer: | Paul Cridland |

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 'Scrutiny Dispatches' report is published.

2. Scrutiny Dispatches

- 2.1 The next report has been drafted for approval (***attached***). This can then be submitted to the next available Council meeting for discussion (1 July).
- 2.2 '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 the scrutiny work programme and 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.
- 2.3 This issue reflects on the whole of the short 2020/21 municipal year, and features scrutiny of:
- Regional Partnerships
 - Tackling Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
 - Active Travel Consultation Process
 - Staff Health & Well-being
 - Council Budget
 - Digital Inclusion

The chair's roundup talks about progress with the work programme, the impact of the pandemic, holding cabinet members to account, and following up on the Equalities Scrutiny Inquiry recommendations.

- 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. Scrutiny Dispatches will also form part of the Scrutiny Annual Report.
- 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 is circulated via an email subscription (sign up via www.swansea.gov.uk/scrutiny), and includes details of:
- Topics being looked at by scrutiny
 - Progress with current activities
 - Forthcoming panel and working group meetings

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

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Scrutiny Dispatches Impact Report