



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Council – 1 July 2021

Scrutiny Dispatches – Impact Report

Purpose:	To present a report from the Scrutiny Programme Committee to Council on the impact of scrutiny.
Policy Framework:	None
Consultation:	Finance, Legal, Access to Services
Report Author:	Brij Madahar
Finance Officer:	Paul Cridland
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 '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 latest report is attached for Council discussion – see **Appendix 1**. 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.

2.3 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. 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.

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

- Topics being looked at by Scrutiny
- Progress with current activities
- Forthcoming Panel and Working Group meetings

3. Integrated Assessment Implications

3.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socioeconomic disadvantage.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2005 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'. Our Integrated Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

3.2 There are no impact assessment implications associated with 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 Impact Report