



Report of the Chair

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 15 March 2022

Annual Scrutiny Work Programme Review

Purpose:	Being the last scheduled Committee meeting of the 2021/22 council year and current Council term, this report is to help councillors: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• look back at the work done this year• reflect on the experience
Content:	The agreed work programme for 2020/22 is described and reviewed. The work completed by the Committee over the past year is attached together with a summary of the established Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups.
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• consider progress, achievements, and the effectiveness of the scrutiny work programme, and scrutiny practice• consider how well the Committee has worked
Lead Councillor(s):	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer(s):	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for developing the Council's scrutiny work programme, and managing the overall work of scrutiny to ensure that it is as effective as possible.
- 1.2 It is good practice at the end of each council year for the Committee to look back on the year's work and consider its effectiveness. This report is to help councillors take stock of the work done this year and reflect on the experience.

2. Scrutiny Arrangements

2.1 The broad aim of the scrutiny function is to engage non-executive councillors in activities to:

- provide an effective challenge to the executive
- help improve services, policies, and performance
- engage the public in its work

2.2 Current scrutiny arrangements, agreed by Council in October 2012, aimed to achieve the following:

- All work to be managed by a single Scrutiny Programme Committee through a single work plan. This will ensure that work is cross cutting and not restricted to departmental silos.
- Specific work will be undertaken both through the Committee and by establishing informal panels (for in-depth activities) or working groups.
- The Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee shall maintain overall responsibility for the work and timetable for scrutiny, and ensuring that the work is carried out, in conjunction with the committee itself.
- All backbench councillors should have the opportunity to participate in scrutiny work regardless of committee membership.

3. Work Planning

3.1 The Committee has needed to ensure that the work of scrutiny is:

- manageable, realistic and achievable given resources available
- relevant to council priorities
- adding value and having maximum impact
- coordinated and avoids duplication

3.2 Given the delayed start to the 2020/21 municipal year, following a Scrutiny Work Planning Conference in October 2020 the Committee agreed a work programme to cover activity up to May 2022, i.e., an 18-month plan, in lieu of holding another work planning event in June 2021.

3.3 Work planning helped guide what topics scrutiny should focus on, considering whether anything important was missing from the existing plan / current thinking, aligning scrutiny with corporate priorities and strategic challenges, thinking about community concerns, and achieving a balance of scrutiny across all Cabinet portfolios. Decisions by the Committee were guided by the overriding principles that:

- the work of scrutiny should be strategic and significant
- focussed on issues of concern, and
- represent a good use of scrutiny time and resources.

- 3.4 The Scrutiny Working Programme includes topics looked at by the Committee itself, or examined through various Panels and Working Groups, with activities prioritised, aligned with available scrutiny time and resources, to sharpen focus on the quality of scrutiny and impact. The agreed work programme for 2020/22 is shown at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.5 Non-executive councillors who are not members of the committee were given the opportunity to participate in Panels and other informal task and finish groups. New scrutiny topics, once agreed, were advertised to all non-executive councillors and expressions of interest sought. The membership of Panels and Working Groups were then determined by the Committee.

4. Summary of Work Completed

- 4.1 The work of scrutiny has been carried out primarily in three ways – through the Committee itself and by establishing informal Panels (for in-depth activities) or one-off Working Groups, engaging, at a minimum, with Cabinet Members and Council officers to explore issues of concern. The Committee will recognise that the pandemic has continued to affect the delivery of the work programme, and work of scrutiny, with some planned activities not able to be completed due to organisational pressures. The work of scrutiny has needed to be responsive and flexible as we have worked through the programme.

4.1.1 Formal Committee Meetings

- 4.1.2 A report was provided to each meeting to enable the Committee to maintain an overview of agreed scrutiny activities (including the work undertaken by the informal Panels and Working Groups established), monitor progress, and coordinate work as necessary.

- 4.1.3 As well as developing and managing the overall work programme and keeping an oversight on all scrutiny activities, a range of service / policy issues have been discussed by the Committee. This has resulted in the Committee communicating findings, views and recommendations for improvement through chair's letters to Cabinet Members. A copy of this year's completed Committee work plan is attached as **Appendix 2**.

- 4.1.4 The work can be summarised as follows:

- **Cabinet Member Questioning Sessions / Discussion on Specific Cabinet Portfolio Responsibilities**

A session with the Leader of the Council was held in January 2022. This enabled the Committee to hold the Leader to account and explore his work, looking at priorities, actions, achievements and impact. The Committee focussed their questions on Brexit and the wider 'Levelling Up' Agenda, the City Centre, Delivering the Swansea Bay City Deal - Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon

Growth Programme, and the Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro Programme.

As well as an overall Q & A Session with the Leader / Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy, the Committee questioned other Cabinet Members on specific portfolio responsibilities, with discussion on:

- Highways and Engineering
- Infrastructure Repairs and Maintenance
- Tourism, Destination Management, and Marketing
- Business and City Promotion
- Energy Policy (incl. Generation, Supply & District Heating)
- Litter and Community Cleansing
- Parking Policy, Control & Enforcement

- **Recovery & Transformation Plan**

The Committee focussed on monitoring and challenging Council action / progress with the Council's Recovery and Transformation Plan 'Swansea – Achieving Better Together', including local impact of the pandemic, dealing with the immediate issues / challenges, as well as short, medium, and long-term planning. This is to be revisited by the Committee, with a further progress report given its importance. There was questioning around the governance arrangements, reporting lines and mechanisms, the effect of the pandemic on progress, headlines and tangible achievements to date, how the Council is learning from others in developing its recovery and transformation work, communications with councillors and the public, and key targets ahead.

- **Public Services Board**

The Committee is responsible for scrutinizing the performance of Swansea Public Services Board and how it is making a difference. This was discussed during meetings held in June 2021 and January 2022. In June, as part of the ongoing scrutiny, the Committee heard from two of the four Statutory Members of the PSB: Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service and Natural Resources Wales about their organisation's role and responsibilities in relation to the PSB, and on the delivery of PSB Well-being Plan objectives that they are leading on. In January, the Committee considered the PSB Annual Report for 2020/21 and took the opportunity to focus on the work of the Health Board and Swansea Council as the other Statutory Members of the PSB, and progress with delivery of the Early Years and Live Well, Age Well PSB Well-being Plan objectives. It also followed up on issues arising from previous scrutiny sessions, and action taken. The Committee has continued to make suggestions to challenge improvement, including around visibility, the measuring and reporting of performance against objectives and impact, and public engagement.

- **Crime & Disorder Scrutiny - Safer Swansea Community Safety Partnership**

The Committee is the authority's designated Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee. In discharging this role, the Committee held its annual session in February focusing on the performance of the Safer Swansea Partnership, looking at partnership priorities, activities, and impact. Lead representatives from both South Wales Police and the Council, who are involved in the joint-chairing arrangement for the Safer Swansea Partnership Steering Group, attended to present information and take questions on the work of the Safer Swansea Partnership. This included questions on Partnership priorities, governance, the continued impact on activities from the pandemic, response to the Mayhill Riot, action on Child Sexual Exploitation, hate crime, knife crime and anti-social behaviour, and renewal of the Safer Swansea Partnership Strategy.

- **Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report**

The Committee annually monitors and challenges Council action in relation to Corporate Safeguarding, given safeguarding is one of the Council's top priorities, and enabled Committee members to comment on progress, achievements, and implementation of policy. Questions were asked about the pandemic's impact on safeguarding and our response in the face of acute pressures on health and social care services, how we are ensuring that those carrying out work on behalf of the Council comply with our Safeguarding Policies, and the provision of safeguarding training.

- **Delivery of Corporate Priority – Tackling Poverty**

Ensuring that all Council Priorities are sufficiently covered within the Scrutiny Work Programme, the Committee called for a report on the delivery of the Corporate Priority on Tackling Poverty. This provided the Committee with information on aims and objectives, a comparative assessment of poverty in Swansea, an outline of key plans and priorities, available resources, an overview of delivery and performance, case studies / examples of the difference made to people's lives, and key service achievements, as well as describing current challenges and risks, and future priorities. This led to questions and discussion on the difference the Council is making, work in relation to the setting up of a Swansea Poverty Truth Commission, Access to Advice & Support, Food Poverty, Employability and Earnings. It was agreed to re-visit work on Tackling Poverty at least annually within the Committee to enable it to keep close watch regularly on progress, follow up on issues raised, and enable scrutiny views to influence action and improvement.

- **Follow Up on Tourism Scrutiny Working Group Recommendations**

The Committee received an update on action following the Tourism Scrutiny Working Group, which reported to Cabinet during 2019, enabling the Committee to consider progress against recommended improvement and highlight issues where further action was required, including on the promotion of eco-tourism and improving the Council’s environmental messaging to attract visitors, potentially a quick win on the back of an increasing interest and concern in the climate, nature and biodiversity.

- **Pre-decision Scrutiny**

Taking into account strategic impact, public interest, and financial implications, the Committee carries out pre-decision scrutiny, unless delegated to relevant Panels. Four cabinet reports were subject to pre-decision scrutiny:

Report	Cabinet Member	Cabinet Meeting	Undertaken by
Update Management Report on Swansea Airport	Delivery & Operations (Deputy Leader)	18 Nov 2021	Service Improvement & Finance Panel
Leasehold Acquisition and Redevelopment FPR7 – 279 Oxford Street/25-27 Princess Way	Investment, Regeneration & Tourism; Delivery & Operations	16 Dec 2021	Committee
Covid Recovery and Investment	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)	20 Jan 2022	Committee
Annual Budget	Economy, Finance & Strategy (Leader)	17 Feb 2022	Service Improvement & Finance Panel (with contribution from other Panels)

- Call-in of Cabinet decisions – None
- Referrals from Council (or other bodies) – None

Other Reports discussed:

- Corporate Complaints Annual Report 2020/21
- Scrutiny Annual Report for 2020/21 (reported to Council 2 Sep 2021)
- Scrutiny Dispatches – Impact Reports (a regular report showing the difference made by scrutiny councillors reported to Council and included within the Annual Report)
- Scrutiny Performance Panel conveners provided progress reports on the work and impact of their Panels

- Procurement Inquiry Final Report (to agree its submission to Cabinet for decision)
- **Co-ordination with the Governance & Audit Committee – Discussion between Chairs / Committees on the Audit / Scrutiny Relationship**

Although Scrutiny and Audit have distinctive roles, there are common aims in terms of good governance, improvement in performance and culture, and financial management, and so a regular conversation is held which helps to ensure we are working together effectively. The Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee addressed the Governance & Audit Committee on this in October 2021 and the Committee also heard from Paula O'Connor, Chair of the Governance & Audit Committee, at the Scrutiny Programme Committee that month. This has made sure there is good awareness of each other's work, avoiding duplication and gaps in work programmes, and the ability to refer issues between Committees. It was highlighted that some of the areas that will benefit from co-ordination between Committees include the new responsibilities arising from the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 around Council performance, and around the systematic reporting of external audit reports, and respective role in considering and monitoring these.

4.2.1 Informal Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

4.2.2 A number of Scrutiny Panels were established to carry out in-depth inquiries or undertake in-depth monitoring of particular services.

- a) Inquiry Panels: to undertake discrete in-depth inquiries into specific and significant areas of concern on a task and finish basis. These would be significant topics where scrutiny can make a real difference. Inquiry panels are expected to take no longer than six months to complete and would produce a final report at the end of the inquiry with conclusions and recommendations for Cabinet (and other decision-makers), informed by the evidence gathered.

The following Inquiry Panel, carried over from 2019/20, and delayed by the pandemic and impact on resources, was resumed in June 2021 and completed the Inquiry in February 2022.

Inquiry	Status
Procurement (convener: Cllr Chris Holley): What is the Council doing to ensure it procures locally, ethically, and greenly while being cost effective and transparent in its practices?	Final Report presented to Scrutiny Programme Committee 15 March 2022 – to agree submission to Cabinet for decision

Follow up of Previous Scrutiny Inquiries – Inquiry Panels reconvene to follow up on the implementation of agreed recommendations and cabinet action plans, and the impact of their work. A meeting will usually be held around 6-12 months following cabinet decision, with a further follow up arranged if required. The following previous scrutiny inquiries were followed up during the year:

Inquiry	Monitoring Status
Equalities (convener: Cllr Lyndon Jones)	COMPLETE Original follow up meeting was held in Jan 2021 with a further follow up deemed necessary. This was held on 26 January 2022.

- b) Performance Panels: to provide in-depth monitoring and challenge for clearly defined service areas. Performance Panels are expected to have on-going correspondence with relevant cabinet members in order to share views and recommendations, arising from monitoring activities, about services. Performance Panel conveners provide a regular update to the Committee to enable discussion on key activities and impact.

Performance Panel	Convener*
Service Improvement & Finance (monthly)	Cllr Chris Holley
Education (monthly)	Cllr Lyndon Jones
Adult Services (6-weekly)	Cllr Susan Jones
Child & Family Services (6-weekly)	Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams
Development & Regeneration (every two months)	Cllr Jeff Jones
Natural Environment (every two months)	Cllr Peter Jones

* Performance Panels were asked to confirm their convener for the municipal year

- 4.2.3 Working Groups - Although the majority of scrutiny work would be carried out through the Committee and Panels, the Committee can also establish informal Working Groups of councillors. This has supported flexible working where it is considered that a matter should be carried out outside of the Committee but does not necessitate the establishment of a Panel. This method of working is intended to be light-touch – effectively a one-off focused meeting to consider a specific report or information, resulting in a letter (or report) to the relevant Cabinet Member(s) with views and recommendations.

4 one-off Working Groups were included in the 2020/22 work programme.

- **Workforce** (convener: Cllr Cyril Anderson)

Original meeting held in March 2021 with agreement to hold a further meeting. This was held on 2 February 2022, completing this Working Group.

- **Digital Inclusion** (convener: Cllr Lesley Walton)

Completed in May 2021 however further oversight of work on Digital Inclusion recommended, as things develop, perhaps annually, whether through the Working Group or other method of scrutiny. This will be factored into future work planning discussion.

- **Bus Services** (convener: Cllr Lyndon Jones)

Meeting held on 7 July 2021 with agreement to hold follow up meeting to enable follow up on the Group's recommendations and see what changes / improvements had been made. Meeting held 14 March 2022 to complete this work.

The planned Healthy City Working Group could not be held due to Covid pressures on necessary participants, and despite efforts to convene, in its place, a Working Group on Road Safety (from the reserve list) this could not be carried out within 2021/22.

4.2.4 **Chair's Letters** - these are an established way for scrutiny, across all activities, to communicate findings, views and recommendations for improvement directly to Cabinet Members (and other decision-makers), reflecting discussion at meetings. Letters sent by the Committee, Inquiry Panels and Working Groups, and those by Performance Panels where action required from the Committee, and responses to letters were published within the Scrutiny Programme Committee agenda for discussion.

Response times are monitored and currently (as at 8 March) show that:

- the average response time is 18 days (against target of 21 days) – this is improvement on 2020/21 which was 24 days
- of the 18 letters which required a Cabinet Member response 72% have been responded to within time – this is improvement on 2020/21 (55% / 20 letters)

4.3.1 **Scrutiny of Regional Bodies**

4.3.2 **Education / School Improvement**

Swansea scrutiny was involved since 2016 in an informal regional scrutiny arrangement with the four (formerly six) councils participating in the 'Education Through Regional Working' (ERW) school improvement consortium. A Scrutiny Councillor Group has met to

provide challenge to ERW, coordinate scrutiny work across the region and ensure a consistent approach, with Swansea represented by the chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee and convener of the Education Performance Panel. A meeting took place in June 2021. The Swansea Scrutiny Team has been providing the support for this group as the Council's contribution to ERW.

Following decision to wind down the ERW regional consortium a new South West Wales Education Partnership has been established, called 'Partneriaeth' consisting of Swansea Council, Carmarthenshire Council and Pembrokeshire Councils. Taking on board views of the ERW Councillor Group about future scrutiny arrangements, a Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group, comprising of Education Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs or equivalent will scrutinise the work of the new regional Partnership which will support the delivery of school improvement, and ensure greater public accountability over decisions made. Scrutiny will seek reassurance and consider if the Partnership is operating according to the Joint Committee Agreement, and its Business Plan, and is being managed effectively. Responsibility for scrutiny support, as well as responsibility for other functions, will be determined in due course by the Partneriaeth Joint Committee, comprising the Leaders of the three Councils, as the strategic decision-making body.

4.3.3 Swansea Bay City Region City Deal

The Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee, approved by Council in July 2018, involves three councillor representatives from each of the four Councils involved in the City Deal, meeting to scrutinise the work of the Joint Committee responsible for delivering the City Deal Programme. Swansea's Councillor Representatives are: Jan Curtice, Phil Downing & Jeff Jones. Although originally scheduled to meet quarterly meetings, additional meetings are being arranged as required. Meetings took place in July and November 2021 and January and 2022. As per Joint Agreement, the Scrutiny Committee is serviced by Neath Port Talbot Council.

4.3.4 South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee

Following establishment of the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), which involves Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Councils, as well as Brecon Beacons and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authorities, the Committee has agreed to set up a CJC Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee which will consist of three elected members from each Council which will meet at least quarterly. The Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee, to be serviced by Neath Port Talbot Council, will scrutinise the decisions / actions of the CJC as it discharges its functions and performance in relation to policy objectives and targets. The Joint Scrutiny arrangement will not preclude scrutiny within constituent Councils in order to discuss the impact of the CJC on their Council and locality.

The CJC will exercise functions relating to strategic land use planning, regional transport planning and the exercise of economic well-being powers.

- 4.4 **Appendix 3a** provides a timetable of all scrutiny activities carried out in 2021/22. Lead councillors and officers are also noted within.
- 4.5 **Appendix 3b** provides a snapshot of progress with all of the informal Panels and Working Groups established by the Committee and their current position.
- 4.6 Being the last year of the Council term, for completeness a summary of the work carried out over the past five years is also provided (see **Appendix 4**) showing the main topics that have been examined by scrutiny during that time.
- 4.7 Although much of the work of scrutiny is carried out by informal Panels and Working Groups these meetings have been accessible to the public. Agendas, reports and letters relating to all such scrutiny activities are published, in the same manner as the Committee, on the Council's modern.gov online platform:
<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1&LLL=0>

5. **Public Requests for Scrutiny / Public Engagement**

- 5.1 In accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 the Scrutiny Programme Committee has a protocol to deal with requests for scrutiny from individual councillors (who are not members of the committee) and/or members of the public.
- 5.2 Also, councillor calls for action (CCfA) specifically enable councillors to refer issues of local importance to an overview and scrutiny committee, however as a means of "last resort" in a broad sense, with issues being raised at a scrutiny committee after other avenues have been explored.
- 5.3 In accordance with these protocols, the chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee is required to consider any requests received and bring about a proposal about how to deal with these to the Committee for consideration.
- 5.4.1 Summary of activity over the year, to date:
 - Three public / councillor request for scrutiny was received:
 - A public request for scrutiny of issues relating to planning services was received by the Convener of the Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel, Councillor Chris Holley. It was agreed that issues raised would be explored during consideration of the Annual Planning Performance Report by the Panel at a meeting planned for 16 November.
 - An issue was raised by a member of the public regarding waste/coastal debris being left on Rhosilli and Broughton /

Whitford sands, and not being cleared, and its impact on nature and visitors. The issue was referred to the Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management who was asked to respond directly to the member of the public. It has been clarified that these beaches are not under the ownership of the Council and therefore it does not have responsibility for removing waste from them or maintaining them. This responsibility rests with the landowners. The Cabinet Member provided a response, as requested, to the member of the public. There was no action required from the Scrutiny Programme Committee.

- An issue was raised by a member of the public regarding difficulties for those without off street parking to charge electric vehicles at home, and solutions that would help to encourage electric vehicle take up in Swansea. This was referred to the relevant Cabinet Members, Councillors Andrea Lewis and Mark Thomas (as it refers to both EV charging and highway issues) for direct response to the member of the public. Following their response it was suggested that the Committee may wish to scrutinise the Council's draft strategy for implementing electric vehicle charge points, which will take into account the issue of on street charging as part of the strategy, as it becomes available.
- On one out of nine occasions, questions were submitted by members of the public to the Committee, as part of Public Question Time, with these people speaking at the meeting. These related to the discussion with Cabinet Member on Highways & Engineering and Infrastructure Repairs & Maintenance.
- As video of remote Committee meetings are published on-line we can see on average meetings are generating around 40 views (YouTube). The most watched were the discussion with Cabinet Member on Tourism, Destination Management, and Marketing and Business & City Promotion (August 2021), and meeting in January 2022 on the Public Services Board, Pre-decision Scrutiny of report on Covid Recovery & Investment, and Q & A Session with Leader of the Council.
- 44% of Committee meeting agendas included some form of public input (this includes questions being asked during Public Question Time at one meeting)
- 56% of Committee meetings generated media coverage (this related to the discussion within meetings on: Energy Policy; Tackling Poverty; Parking Policy, Control & Enforcement; Covid Recovery & Investment; and Crime & Disorder)

6. The Scrutiny Experience / Improvement & Development

- 6.1 At the conclusion of the year's work it is good practice to reflect on achievements and issues that have arisen. Committee members are encouraged to share their views on how their experience has been (positive and negative), and whether there are aspects of practice / process that could be improved.

6.2 The following questions may be worth considering:

- Have things worked well within the Committee over the past year?
- Has the Committee's work and overall work programme focused on the right things?
- What, if anything, could be done better?
- What have we learnt that will help us to improve and develop future scrutiny?

6.3 A range of relevant statistics about scrutiny activity, covering the last year, are attached as **Appendix 5** to help the Committee consider, to some degree, the performance of scrutiny. For example, councillor attendance at the Committee (not including co-optees) is 84% across nine meetings held to date this year, against an overall average of 79%.

6.4 Committee members are encouraged to reflect on the work of the Committee and work programme, and identify any improvement and development issues. Based on self-evaluation and reflection, the Committee can consider whether, and what, action should be taken to improve scrutiny.

6.5 Committee members will be aware that a number of scrutiny improvement objectives and action plan were agreed by the Committee in January 2019. This included actions to address the three proposals for improvement made by the Wales Audit Office following its review of the Council's scrutiny arrangements in 2018. The Committee has regularly reviewed and considered progress against the action plan, last in May 2021. The review of the current improvement plan showed only a small number of outstanding actions:

- Development and delivery of a scrutiny training and development programme (as suggested by Wales Audit Office)
MARCH 2022 UPDATE: this will be arranged post-May 2022 at an appropriate time during the new Council, in addition to the Scrutiny Induction Session that will be held around June 2022.
- Developing a method of direct post-meeting evaluation from those attending scrutiny meetings (Cabinet Members, officers, external persons etc.) that will help strengthen our evaluation of the impact and outcomes scrutiny activity.
MARCH 2022 UPDATE: this was developed and rolled out in October 2021. We are now inviting post-meeting feedback from scrutiny participants, i.e., Cabinet Members, officers, external invitees, and public attendees, about their experience and satisfaction. They will be invited to complete a short anonymous survey shortly after each scrutiny meeting. This will provide us with valuable information that will help us to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of scrutiny practice and inform the improvement and development of scrutiny in Swansea.

- Developing a specific Facebook page for scrutiny that should improve visibility of the work of scrutiny and sharing of stories, and active public engagement

MARCH 2022 UPDATE: following discussion with Corporate Director it was agreed that the Council's Facebook page could be used to post information and stories about Scrutiny, rather than a setting up a separate account, which should ensure a bigger audience. This has been utilised and is available for future use.

6.6 All Scrutiny Performance Panels have also been invited to reflect on their work and observations that may inform future scrutiny and its effectiveness.

6.7 An internal audit of scrutiny was carried out in 2021, the outcome of which was a high level of assurance and no recommendations, with no key issues / risks found. The audit looked at the role of Scrutiny, its work programme and reporting lines, the relationship between the scrutiny and audit committees, scrutiny of partnership arrangements, coverage of corporate risks in the risk register, examination and follow-up of external reviews, and compliance with the Wales Audit Office discussion paper - Six Themes to Make Scrutiny Fit for the Future. The outcome was reported to the Governance & Audit Committee in June.

7. Scrutiny Annual Report

7.1 The key achievements from the scrutiny work carried out over the past year and its impact will be featured in the Scrutiny Annual Report which will be published in the next few months.

8. Developing the Work Programme for 2022/23 and beyond

8.1 A Work Planning Conference will take place in the new municipal year that will help the Committee to consider and identify priorities for scrutiny for the coming year. All scrutiny councillors will be invited to participate in this. As well as new topics the work programme will need to consider the continuation of some current activities because of their importance or because work may be incomplete, as well as suggestions that have already been made during the last year about future work.

8.2 The following work may therefore need to be considered when discussing a new Scrutiny Work Programme:

- Inquiry Panels (identified but not started)
 - *Anti-Social Behaviour (Terms of Reference to be agreed but could focus on how we can reduce anti-social behaviour in our communities, look at factors behind rising anti-social behaviour; inter-agency working, the role of elected members, reporting, etc.)*

- Follow up of Previous Scrutiny Inquiries
 - Procurement (*pending report to Cabinet / Cabinet decision*)
- Performance Panels
 - Service Improvement & Finance
 - Education
 - Child & Family Services
 - Adult Social Services
 - Development & Regeneration
 - Natural Environment
- Working Groups
 - Road Safety (*planned but not completed*)
 - Healthy City (*planned but not completed*)
 - Co-Production (*recommended by the Equalities Inquiry Panel further to its follow up on the scrutiny recommendations*)

Follow Up on previous Working Groups – to be carried out by the Committee

 - Workforce
 - Digital Inclusion (*possible annual item*)
 - Bus Services
- Regional Scrutiny
 - Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee (*already established and in progress*)
 - South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee (*currently being set up*)
 - Partneriaeth Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group (*currently being set up*)

8.3 The Committee is welcome to share ideas about any other topics that might need to be looked at by scrutiny in future.

9. Financial Implications

9.1 Any costs that arise out of work plan activities, for example expenses for witnesses or transport costs, are not envisaged to be significant and will be contained within the existing Scrutiny Budget.

10. Legal Implications

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

Background papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1: The Agreed Work Programme 2020/22

Appendix 2: Scrutiny Programme Committee - Completed Work Plan 2021/22

Appendix 3a: Work Programme 2021/22 – Timetable of Activity

Appendix 3b: Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

Appendix 4: The Work of Scrutiny 2017-22

Appendix 5: Scrutiny Performance Data