



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 17 September 2024

Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24

Purpose:	To provide a report on the work of Scrutiny for the previous municipal year 2023/24.
Content:	This report provides background to the annual report and attaches the draft Annual Report 2023/24.
Councillors are being asked to:	Consider the annual report and endorse its presentation to Council.
Lead Councillors:	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee Councillor Mike White, Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
Lead Officer:	Tracey Meredith, Chief Legal Officer
Report Author:	Councillor Peter Black / Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader
Finance Officer:	Amanda Thomas
Legal Officer:	Adrian Jeremiah
Access to Services Officer:	Catherine Window

1. Introduction

1.1 Every year Council requires that an Annual Report is produced for the work of Scrutiny for the previous municipal year.

1.2 The Scrutiny Annual Report is used to:

- Highlight the work carried out by Scrutiny
- Show how Scrutiny has made a difference
- Support continuous improvement for the Scrutiny function

1.3 The report uses a 'scorecard' approach, intended to highlight a small number of key indicators that illustrate four performance questions. These questions, which are intended to reflect a 'results based' approach, are:

- How much Scrutiny did we carry out?
- How well did we do?
- How did Scrutiny impact on the business of the Council?
- What were the outcomes of Scrutiny?

1.4 Charts show comparative data with previous years where available. Arrows on the main scorecard indicate the direction of change for each measure. As well as data, the report highlights stories about the impact made by Scrutiny, and a reflection on efforts to improve and develop Scrutiny.

1.5 Councillors should also consider whether the indicators will be suitable for future reports or whether different indicators should be used or developed.

1.5 Subject to Committee agreement, the Annual Report will be presented by the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee to the next available Council meeting, which would be 3 October 2024.

2. Financial Implications

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

3. Legal Implications

3.1. The Council Constitution requires that a Scrutiny Annual Report is produced each year although the style and content of the Annual Report is not prescribed.

4. Integrated Assessment Implications

4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, 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 Acts.
- 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 socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 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'.

4.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

4.2 The Annual Report summarises the work of Scrutiny carried out in the previous municipal year, promoting the difference made, and supporting continuous improvement of the Scrutiny function in Swansea. The work of Scrutiny is open to the public, promoted via Council media channels, and enable all citizens to ask questions, raise issues and/or input views. The work of Scrutiny involves examination of Council services and making recommendations for improvement to Cabinet Members (and other decision-makers). We ensure that public views can feed into the Scrutiny process.

4.3 As this report is for information an IIA Screening is not required.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24