

## Report of the Chair

### Scrutiny Programme Committee – 9 March 2017

#### SCRUTINY LETTERS

<b>Purpose</b>	To ensure the committee is aware of the scrutiny letters produced following various scrutiny activities, and to track responses to date.
<b>Content</b>	The report includes a log of scrutiny letters produced this year and provides a copy of correspondence between scrutiny and cabinet members, where discussion is required.
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review the scrutiny letters and responses</li><li>• Make comments, observations and recommendations as necessary</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor(s)</b>	Councillor Mary Jones, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
<b>Lead Officer(s)</b>	Mike Hawes, Director – Resources
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#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The production of scrutiny letters has become an established part of the way scrutiny operates in Swansea. Letters from the chair (or conveners) allow scrutiny to communicate directly and quickly with relevant cabinet members.
- 1.2 These letters are used to convey views and conclusions about particular issues discussed and provide the opportunity to raise concerns, ask for further information, and make recommendations. This enables scrutiny to engage with Cabinet Members on a regular and structured basis.

#### 2. Reporting of Letters

- 2.1 All scrutiny letters, whether they are written by the Programme Committee or conveners of panels / working groups, are published on the Council's website (<http://swansea.gov.uk/scrutinypublications>) to ensure visibility, of the outcomes from meetings, across the council and public.

2.2 The Scrutiny Programme Committee agenda also includes a copy of letters to/from Cabinet Members where specific discussion is required. Letters are included where cabinet member responses were awaited and have now been received or where a scrutiny letter did not require a response.

2.3 Letters relating to the work of Performance Panels are part of an ongoing dialogue with Cabinet Members and are therefore reported back and monitored by each Panel. The exception to this is the Public Services Board Scrutiny Performance Panel, whose letters will be reported as this committee is the designated committee for scrutinising Swansea Public Services Board (for the purposes of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015). However all Performance Panel conveners will provide a quarterly progress report to the committee, including summary of correspondence with Cabinet Members and outcomes.

### 3. Letters Log

3.1 This report contains a log of scrutiny letters produced to enable the committee to maintain an overview of letters activity over the last year – see **Appendix 1**.

3.2 The following letter(s) are also attached for discussion:

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
a	Adult Services Performance Panel (Social Care at Home Inquiry Follow Up)	14 Dec	Letter to / from Cabinet Member for Adults & Vulnerable People
b	Planning Working Group	1 Feb	Letter to / from Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Development & Regeneration

The correspondence from the Adult Services Panel relates to the Social Care at Home Scrutiny Inquiry. The Panel met to follow up on agreed cabinet actions and assess the impact of this work. Overall the panel was pleased with the progress that has been made in implementing the recommendations of the scrutiny inquiry, and the impact made on the delivery of social care at home. The Panel found that of the 21 recommendations that were agreed by Cabinet, all have been completed. This concludes the monitoring of this inquiry.

The correspondence from the Planning Working Group relates to an original meeting in October 2016. Having considered the Cabinet Member's response to the letter sent following this meeting the Panel agreed to send a further letter to the Cabinet Member with outstanding concerns. This concludes the work.

- 3.3 Where requested Cabinet Members are expected to respond in writing to scrutiny letters within 21 calendar days. The response should indicate what action (if any) they intend to take as a result of the views and recommendations made. The letters log will show the average time taken by Cabinet Members to respond to scrutiny letters, and the percentage of letters responded to within timescale.

**4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 There are no legal implications.

**5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications.

Background Papers: None

Legal Officer: Wendy Parkin

Finance Officer: Carl Billingsley