

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

28th NOVEMBER 2016

Carmarthenshire County Council's Scrutiny Function – Annual Report 2015/16

Recommendations / Key decisions required:

- That the Democratic Services Committee considers and receives the Scrutiny Function's Annual Report for 2015/16.

Reasons:

- To provide the Democratic Services Committee with an overview of the Council's Scrutiny Function and the respective Scrutiny Committees' work during the 2015/16 municipal year.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted: NOT APPLICABLE
Executive Board Decision Required: NO
Council Decision Required: NO

Carmarthenshire County Council Scrutiny Champion:

Cllr. Hugh Richards (Chair of the Chairs & Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny Forum / Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee)

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|---|------------------------------|--|
| Directorate: Chief Executive's | Designations: | Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses: |
| Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees Jones | Head of Administration & Law | 01267 224010 lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk |
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

28th NOVEMBER 2016

Carmarthenshire County Council's Scrutiny Function – Annual Report 2015/16

Scrutiny plays a key role in promoting accountability in the decision making process of local authorities. It is also useful in ensuring that council policies reflect current priorities, as well as promoting efficiency and encouraging partnership working with external agencies.

All non-executive elected members can be appointed to at least one scrutiny committee, depending on their specialist interests or expertise. Carmarthenshire County Council has 5 scrutiny committees:

- Policy & Resources
- Community
- Education & Children
- Environmental & Public Protection
- Social Care & Health

The committees normally meet on a 6 weekly basis to consider issues and reports included in a scrutiny forward work programme, which is developed at the beginning of the municipal year. Additional meetings are sometimes arranged if required and special or joint meetings may be held to consider urgent or cross-cutting issues.

The attached report provides an overview of the Council's Scrutiny Function and the respective scrutiny committees' work during the 2015/16 municipal year and includes details of:

- The scrutiny committees and their activities
- Other scrutiny-related activities
- The year ahead

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed: Linda Rees Jones Head of Administration & Law

| | | | | | | |
|---|-------|---------|------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities | Legal | Finance | ICT | Risk Management Issues | Staffing Implications | Physical Assets |
| YES | YES | NONE | NONE | YES | NONE | NONE |

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Scrutiny function has an important role in helping the Council to achieve its expressed aims:

- People in Carmarthenshire are healthier
- People in Carmarthenshire fulfil their learning potential
- People who live, work and visit Carmarthenshire are safe and feel safer
- Carmarthenshire's communities and environment are sustainable
- Carmarthenshire has a stronger and more prosperous economy

2. Legal

Article 6.2 of the County Council's Constitution states that a scrutiny committee must:

"Prepare an annual report giving an account of the Committee's activities over the previous year."

Each Committee has prepared individual annual reports which have been combined in this report of scrutiny activity during 2015/16 to the Democratic Services Committee.

3. Risk Management

- An ineffective scrutiny function could undermine the Council's corporate governance arrangements and lead to poor quality decision making.
- Lack of progress in enhancing the role of scrutiny will impact on its effectiveness and esteem within the Council.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Linda Rees Jones Head of Administration & Law

1. Scrutiny Committee(s) – This report contains information from the individual scrutiny committee annual reports, received by the relevant committees at their between July and October 2016.

2. Local Member(s) – N/A

3. Community / Town Council – N/A

4. Relevant Partners – N/A

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – N/A

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:

| Title of Document | File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection |
|---|---|
| Scrutiny Committee Annual Reports for 2015/16 | <p>Community Scrutiny Committee (20th July 2016) – http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s7505/Report.pdf</p> <p>Education & Children Scrutiny Committee (22nd September 2016) – http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s8647/Report.pdf</p> <p>Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee (26th September 2016) – http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s8617/Report.pdf</p> <p>Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee (5th October 2016) – http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s8936/REPORT.pdf</p> <p>Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee (20th September 2016) – http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s8637/Annual%20Report.pdf</p> |
| Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) | http://www.cfps.org.uk |
| Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 | <p>English – http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/4/pdfs/mwa_20110004_en.pdf</p> <p>Cymraeg – http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/4/pdfs/mwa_20110004_we.pdf</p> |

| Title of Document | File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection |
|---|---|
| Scrutiny Committee Agendas and Minutes | <p>Community Scrutiny Committee Cymraeg – http://democratiaeth.sirgar.llyw.cymru/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=186</p> <p>English – http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=186</p> <p>Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Cymraeg – http://democratiaeth.sirgar.llyw.cymru/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=153</p> <p>English – http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=153</p> <p>Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Cymraeg – http://democratiaeth.sirgar.llyw.cymru/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=134</p> <p>English – http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=134</p> <p>Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee Cymraeg – http://democratiaeth.sirgar.llyw.cymru/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=170</p> <p>English – http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=170</p> <p>Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee Cymraeg – http://democratiaeth.sirgar.llyw.cymru/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=169</p> <p>English – http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=169</p> |
| Carmarthenshire County Council's Constitution (Revised as at Council 15th May 2013) | <p>Cymraeg – http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/Cymraeg/cyngorademocratiaeth/CyarfodydPwyllgor/Pages/TheCouncilsConstitution.aspx</p> <p>English – http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/english/council/councillors/pages/councilsconstitution.aspx</p> |

| Title of Document | File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection |
|--|---|
| Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 – Welsh Government Explanatory Memorandum and Guidance for Principal Authorities and Community and Town Councils | <p>Cymraeg – http://wales.gov.uk/topics/localgovernment/publications/lgmeasure11/?skip=1&lang=cy</p> <p>English – http://wales.gov.uk/topics/localgovernment/publications/lgmeasure11/?lang=en</p> |