

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

29TH NOVEMBER 2017

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY FUNCTION – ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

Recommendations / Key decisions required:

- That the Democratic Services Committee considers the Scrutiny Function's Annual Report for 2016/17.

Reasons:

- To provide the Democratic Services Committee with an overview of the Council's Scrutiny Function and the respective Scrutiny Committees' work during the 2016/17 municipal year.

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

Relevant Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder(s): N/A

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

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| 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 29TH NOVEMBER 2017

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY FUNCTION – ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

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.

Carmarthenshire County Council has 5 scrutiny committees who normally meet on a 6 weekly basis.

The attached report provides an overview of the Council's Scrutiny Function and makes specific reference to the work of the 5 Scrutiny Committee's

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

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 and 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 2016/17 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 September/October 2017.

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 information and links to Annual Reports for 2016/17. | Scrutiny information page:- Cymraeg:- http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/committees-meetings/scrutiny.aspx#.WgV9eE27KAq Agendas and Minutes http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1 |
| Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 | English – http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/4/pdfs/mwa_20110004_en.pdf Cymraeg – http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/4/pdfs/mwa_20110004_we.pdf |
| Council Constitution | http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/the-council/councils-constitution.aspx#.WgV87E27KAq |