

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

27th NOVEMBER 2015

Carmarthenshire County Council's Scrutiny Function – Annual Report 2014/15

Recommendations / Key decisions required:

- That the Democratic Services Committee considers and receives the Scrutiny Function's Annual Report for 2014/15.

Reasons:

- To provide the Democratic Services Committee with an overview of the Council's Scrutiny Function and the respective Scrutiny Committees' work during the 2014/15 municipal year.

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

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:
Cllr. Pam Palmer (Communities and Council Business Manager)

Directorate: Chief Executive's	Designations:	Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE 27th NOVEMBER 2015

Carmarthenshire County Council's Scrutiny Function – Annual Report 2014/15

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 2014/15 municipal year and includes details of:

- Key Achievements in 2014/15
- 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 2014/15 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 – This report contains information from the individual scrutiny committee annual reports, received by the relevant committees during their meetings in May / June 2015.

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 2014/15	<p>Community Scrutiny Committee (22nd June 2015) – http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/COMM20150622/REP10.HTM</p> <p>Education & Children Scrutiny Committee (18th May 2015) – http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/EDUC20150518/REP07.HTM</p> <p>Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee (15th May 2015) – http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/ENMT20150515/REP06.HTM</p> <p>Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee (11th June 2015) – http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/POLI20150611/REP06.HTM</p> <p>Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee (22nd May 2015) – http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/SOCI20150522/REP05.HTM</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://arlein.sirgar.gov.uk/agendas/cym/CYMU.asp English – http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/COMM.asp</p> <p>Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Cymraeg – http://arlein.sirgar.gov.uk/agendas/cym/ADDY.asp English – http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/EDUC.asp</p> <p>Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Cymraeg – http://arlein.sirgar.gov.uk/agendas/cym/DIOG.asp English – http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/ENMT.asp</p> <p>Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee Cymraeg – http://arlein.sirgar.gov.uk/agendas/cym/POAD.asp English – http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/POLI.asp</p> <p>Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee Cymraeg – http://arlein.sirgar.gov.uk/agendas/cym/GOFA.asp English – http://online.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/agendas/eng/SOCI.asp</p>
Carmarthenshire County Council's Constitution (Revised as at Council 15th May 2013)	<p>Cymraeg – http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/Cymraeg/cyngorademocratiaeth/CyarfodydPwylIgor/Pages/TheCouncilsConstitution.aspx</p> <p>English – http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/english/council/councillors/pages/councilsconstitution.aspx</p>
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>