

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

29th NOVEMBER 2024

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY FUNCTION – ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

Recommendations / Key decisions required:

- That the Democratic Services Committee considers the Scrutiny Function's Annual Report for 2023-24

Reasons:

- To provide the Democratic Services Committee with an overview of the Council's Scrutiny Function and the respective Scrutiny Committees' work during the 2023-2024 municipal year.

Cabinet Decision Required: NO
Council Decision Required: NO

Relevant Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder(s): N/A

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

<p>Directorate: Chief Executive's</p> <p>Name of Head of Service: Steve Murphy</p> <p>Report Author: Gaynor Morgan</p>	<p>Designations:</p> <p>Head of Governance, Law and Civil Services</p> <p>Head of Democratic Services</p>	<p>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</p> <p>01267 224693 Spmurphy@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 224026 GMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY FUNCTION – ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

Scrutiny is an essential part of local democracy, and its role is to ensure accountability, openness, and transparency 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.

In Carmarthenshire Scrutiny is delivered by five Scrutiny Committees, and a full programme of meetings has been delivered.

This Scrutiny Annual Report captures the achievements of Scrutiny in 2023/24 and provides an insight into how Scrutiny has been able to influence positive change, in the interest of Carmarthenshire residents.

Each Scrutiny Committee produces its own annual report which can be viewed on the [Scrutiny webpage](#) and this report provides an overview of the work undertaken.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES
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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: **Steve P Murphy** **Head of Governance, Law and Civil Services**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
YES	YES	NONE	NONE	YES	NONE	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 2023/24 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: Steve P Murphy

Head of Governance, Law and Civil Services

1. Scrutiny Committee(s) – This report contains information from the individual Scrutiny Committee annual reports for 2023-24.

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	Scrutiny information page: Cymraeg – https://www.sirgar.llyw.cymru/cartref/cyngor-a-democratiaeth/pwyllgorau-a-chyfarfodydd/craffu/#.XcqGZcTgpPY English - https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/committees-meetings/scrutiny/#.XcqGOcTgpPY
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	https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/the-council/councils-constitution/