



Purpose: For Noting

Committee report

COMMITTEE	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	8 MARCH 2022
TITLE	REVIEW OF THE SCRUTINY YEAR – 2021/22
REPORT OF	CHAIRMAN OF THE CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND

1. In developing its workplan the Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to include an item reviewing the work of the scrutiny committees over the previous year. This provides the opportunity of highlighting the issues dealt with by scrutiny and helps demonstrate the role that it can play in the Council's democratic processes.
2. Following the elections in May 2021 existing workplans were continued whilst members received induction training and reviewed items for inclusion. Each committee is now developing a 12-month rolling workplan following full Council approval of the Corporate Plan in November 2021. In addition, agenda planning meetings are held with the relevant cabinet members and senior officers aimed at ensuring that the relevant information sought by councillors can be provided.
3. A meeting is now held on an approximately quarterly basis between the chairmen and vice chairmen of all the scrutiny committees to discuss workplans, working processes and sharing ideas. In addition to this the chairmen of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Audit Committee have regular meetings to ensure that there is no duplication in workplans and also identify issues of interest to either committee.

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4. The Committee will have met on nine occasions and these are normally held two days before meetings of Cabinet. This provides for scrutiny of items going before Cabinet for decision. The Committee has raised a concern about the number of items now included on the agenda for Cabinet meetings as the result of not operating a Cabinet Member delegated decision process.
5. The key issues discussed by the Committee during 2021-22 include :-
 - Annual complaints report
 - Development of the council's website
 - Review of the investment strategy
 - Draft Island Planning Strategy through a task and finish group
 - Southern Water, flooding and sewage outfalls
 - Annual report of the Community Safety Partnership
 - Commercial Property/Investment Strategy

6. There have been no call in's submitted during the year and no issues raised through the Councillor Call for Action process.

POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

7. The Committee is responsible for undertaking health scrutiny in accordance with the statutory regulations. There have been substantial challenges for this committee over the past year and the Committee will continue to highlight issues of public concern. The key items that it has dealt with over the past year include :-
 - Statutory social care annual report
 - Suicide prevention
 - Dentistry on the Island
 - Access to GP practices.
 - CQC inspection reports of Council establishments and St Mary's hospital
 - Proposed Integrated Care Partnership arrangements
8. A series of informal briefing sessions continue to be held with health and social care partners. These have been effective in discussing key issues in greater depth and identifying any significant matter that requires debate at the formal meetings.

POLICY & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION & SKILLS

9. The Committee is keen to ensure that children on the Island are safe and have good access to services that enable them to fulfil their potential. Key items dealt with include :-
 - Statutory annual children's services complaints report
 - Home education
 - Statutory reports on adoption and fostering arrangements
 - IW Safeguarding Children's Board annual report
 - Planning for future school places
 - Annual children's safeguarding report
 - Ofsted July 2021 inspection on Children in Need and Child Protection Services

POLICY & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS & REGENERATION

10. The remit of the Committee is very wide and with only four meetings a year requires careful thought as to what to include in its workplan. Key items that it has dealt with include :-
 - Progress with the delivery of regeneration projects.
 - Annual report from Visit IW
 - Electric vehicle charging points
 - Bus service improvement plan
 - Housing strategy action plan monitoring
 - Highway PFI and Waste contract performance monitoring
 - Mobile average speed cameras.

ISSUES FOR 2022/23

11. The Committees will monitor the delivery of the key activities as contained in the Corporate Plan. A priority will also be to ensure that the budget remains on track and any pressure areas are identified at an early stage so corrective actions can be initiated. It is hoped that the Committees can be utilised constructively in the review and formulation of policy to assist the Cabinet in reaching the most effective decisions for the benefit of Island residents.

OUTCOME

12. The report is for noting.

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