

## Meeting of the City Council

### 19 September 2018

|  |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Report title</b>                            | Annual Scrutiny Report                |  |
| <b>Referring body</b>                          | Scrutiny Board, 11 September 2018     |  |
| <b>Councillor to present report</b>            | Councillor Steve Simkins              |  |
| <b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b> | Councillor Val Gibson<br>Governance   |  |
| <b>Wards affected</b>                          | All Wards                             |  |
| <b>Accountable Director</b>                    | Kevin O'Keefe, Director of Governance |  |
| <b>Originating service</b>                     | Scrutiny and Systems                  |  |
| <b>Accountable employee(s)</b>                 | Julia Cleary<br>Tel:<br>Email:        | Scrutiny and Systems Manager<br>01902 555046<br><a href="mailto:Julia.Cleary@wolverhampton.gov.uk">Julia.Cleary@wolverhampton.gov.uk</a> |
| <b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>     | Strategic Executive Board             | 18 September 2018  |

#### Recommendation for decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Receive the Annual Scrutiny Report.

#### Recommendation for noting:

The Council is asked to note:

1. The video presentation detailing the work being carried out in relation to the scrutiny function.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The report highlights some of the key achievements of the Scrutiny function over the 2017-2018 municipal year including details of the progress and outcomes from a selection of Panel meetings and Reviews.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 On 11 September 2018 Scrutiny Board considered the Annual Scrutiny Report.
- 2.2 Copies of the report have been supplied to Councillors and can also be accessed online on the Council's website [here](#).
- 2.3 Scrutiny Board recommended to Council that it:
1. Receive the Annual Scrutiny Report.
  2. Note the video presentation detailing the work being carried out in relation to the scrutiny function.

## **3.0 Scrutiny**

- 3.1 Scrutiny is a vital component of good governance and the work carried out by Councillors through scrutiny this year has been invaluable in influencing policy. This has been through representing the concerns and interests of the public and by providing challenge to the Cabinet. Scrutiny also undertakes reviews of partners working with the Council through detailed and critical analysis of their annual plans and reports. The Board and all the Panels undertook thorough scrutiny of the budget savings proposals.
- 3.2 Wolverhampton operates a model similar to that used by most unitary councils across England. The Scrutiny Board provides the overall co-ordination of the work programme with the six Panels focussing on key areas of priority. This is also supplemented by a series of reviews into key issues.
- 3.3 The Scrutiny Board and six Panels have been involved in both pre-decision, policy development and post decision scrutiny throughout the year.

## **4.0 Good scrutiny**

- 4.1 Good scrutiny tackles issues of direct relevance to local people and issues where, through the unique perspective of Councillors, it can add the most value. Scrutiny is about talking to a wide range of people, drawing them together and building consensus. It is also about challenging the accepted ways of doing things and acting as a champion for developing a culture of improvement in the local area.

4.2 When deciding whether an item should be considered by scrutiny the following questions should be asked:

- Is it an issue of concern to partners, local residents, local communities or the City of Wolverhampton Council?
- How can scrutiny add value? How will outcomes be improved as a result of scrutiny activity?
- Will scrutiny work be duplicating work being done elsewhere?

## **5.0 Financial implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations here as Councillors are being requested to review the annual scrutiny report. Any financial implications associated with scrutiny processes through the year are incorporated in reports taken to the Scrutiny Board and panels. The on-going scrutiny function developments are being implemented utilising existing resources within the Scrutiny Team.

[GE/10092018/N]

## **6.0 Legal implications**

6.1 This report provides an overview of the scrutiny which has taken place during 2017-2018 and future plans for the on-going improvement and development of the service. For legal implications, specific to each project please refer to the reports taken to Scrutiny Board and Panels during the year.

[AS/11092018/U]

## **7.0 Equalities implications**

7.1 In scrutinising issues, the members of the Board, Panel or group are required to consider the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups of people in order to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

7.2 For equalities implications relating to each issue considered, please refer to the reports taken to Scrutiny Board and panels during the year.

## **8.0 Environmental implications**

8.1 There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **9.0 Human resources implications**

9.1 There are no human resources implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **10.0 Corporate landlord implications**

- 10.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **11.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 11.1 Copies of all agendas and minutes for scrutiny panel meetings can be found [here](#).