

Meeting of the City Council

Wednesday 6 April 2022

Report title	Annual Scrutiny Review 2020-2021	
Referring body	Scrutiny Board – 22 March 2022	
Councillor to present report	Councillor Paul Sweet, Chair of Scrutiny Board	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paula Brookfield, Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities	
Accountable director	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee	Julia Cleary	Systems and Scrutiny Manager Tel: 01902 555046 Email: julia.cleary@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report has been considered by	Scrutiny Board	22 March 2022

Recommendation for decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the Annual Scrutiny Review 2020-2021.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Annual Review highlights some of the key achievements of the Scrutiny function over the 2020-2021 municipal year including details of the progress and outcomes from a selection of Panel meetings.

2. Background

- 2.1 Main areas for consideration this year included:

- Focus on Digital – Connected City Theme
- Adding value through the pandemic – Partnership working in Health scrutiny
- Place and Community – Critical friend challenge and feedback
- Protecting out most vulnerable children and young people – cross panel working, and member led enquiry
- Relighting our City – Regeneration and holding the Executive to account
- Challenges and future direction for scrutiny.

3. 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.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with the recommendation in this report as Councillors are requested to endorse the Annual Scrutiny Review 2020-2021 and recommend that it be received by Full Council on 6 April 2022. Any financial implications emerging as work is undertaken in pursuit of Scrutiny recommendations will continue to be incorporated in reports to the Scrutiny Board and Panels. Ongoing scrutiny function developments will be implemented utilising current budgeted Scrutiny Team resources. [GE/14032022/K]

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 This report provides an overview of the scrutiny which has taken place during 2020-2021 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/14032022/A]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 For equalities implications relating to each issue considered, please refer to the reports taken to Scrutiny Board and panels during the year.

7.0 All other implications

- 7.1 There are no other implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

8.0 Schedule of background papers

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