



Meeting of the City Council

16 July 2014

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| Report title | Scrutiny Annual Report 2013-2014 | |
| Referring body | Scrutiny Board | |
| Councillor to present report | Cllr Peter O'Neill Chair of Scrutiny Board | |
| Wards affected | All | |
| Cabinet Member with lead responsibility | Councillor Andrew Johnson Resources | |
| Strategic director | Simon Warren, Chief Executive | |
| Originating service | Office of the Chief Executive | |
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| Report to be/has been considered by | Scrutiny Board | 15 April 2014 |

Recommendations for noting:

The Council is asked to:

1. Receive the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2013-14.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The annual report highlights the key achievements of the Scrutiny function for the 2013-14 municipal year. The report provides an overarching view of the progress and outcomes from the Scrutiny Board, Panels and the Reviews and Inquiries process.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Scrutiny is a vital component of good governance, and the work carried out by Councillors through Scrutiny this year has been invaluable to influencing policy. This has been through reviewing the effectiveness of partnership working, representing the voice and concerns of the public and providing challenge to the Executive. The Board and all the Panels undertook thorough Scrutiny of the Budget Savings Proposals.

3.0 Progress

3.1 Scrutiny at Wolverhampton City Council

- 3.1.1 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 six panels focussing on key areas of priority. This is supplemented by a series of reviews and inquiries into key issues.

- 3.1.2 Scrutiny Board and the six panels have been involved in both pre-decision and post-decision scrutiny throughout the year. Details of this can be found at appendix A.

- 3.2 In 2013-14 a review of Scrutiny itself took place, which resulted in several key changes being implemented from 1 April 2013. This included the production of Scrutiny guides and procedures and a refresh of the terms of reference for the six Scrutiny Panels to enable greater alignment to the delivery of the Corporate Plan. Further information on Scrutiny can be viewed on the Council's website:

<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/article/2633/Scrutiny-documents>

- 3.2.1 The implementation of the review of Scrutiny was scrutinised at the February meeting of the Scrutiny Board. It was shown that progress had been made in achieving all the recommendations set out in the review.

- 3.3 Scrutiny at Wolverhampton can be divided into two broad categories: pre and post-decision scrutiny (the call-in function is part of post-decision scrutiny).

- **Pre-decision Scrutiny** selectively examines the Council's draft proposals, objectives and programmes in order to help inform their development before they are agreed. In this way Scrutiny can be used as a sounding board to ensure that all relevant options

have been looked at and appropriate consultation undertaken. It is also a means of building a broader understanding and consensus.

- **Post-decision Scrutiny** selectively examines the implementation of Council policy and performance in terms of service delivery. It enables the Council to review the effectiveness of its decision making, helping it to recognise any unforeseen consequences and assisting it in revising its policy and practice accordingly.
- Scrutiny Board also undertook the '**call-in**' function. 'Call-in' is a statutory right for Members of the Council to call in a decision of Cabinet or an individual Cabinet Member or Cabinet Members after it has been made but before it has been implemented.

3.3.1 In addition to the Scrutiny Annual Report, a quarterly update on Scrutiny activity is presented to the Leader's Business Management Group.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Within the Office of the Chief Executive, there is a scrutiny budget to support the investigation of issues highlighted by Councillors through the work programmes of the panels and the reviews and inquiries.

[CN/19092014/B]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 This report and appendix A is a précis of the scrutiny which has taken place during 2013/14. For specific legal implications please refer to the reports taken to Scrutiny Board and Panels during the year.

5.2 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

[RB/18062014/M]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 No equality analysis has been undertaken during the drafting of the report.

6.2 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.

6.3 This report and Appendix A is a précis of the scrutiny which has taken place during 2013/14. For equalities implications please refer to the reports taken to Scrutiny Board and panels during the year.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 This report and appendix A is a précis of the scrutiny which has taken place during 2013/14. For environmental implications please refer to the reports taken to Scrutiny Board and Panels during the year.
- 7.2 There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 This report and appendix A is a précis of the scrutiny which has taken place during 2013/14. For human resource implications please refer to the reports taken to Scrutiny Board and Panels during the year.
- 8.2 There are no human resources implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 9.1 This report and appendix A is a précis of the scrutiny which has taken place during 2013/14. For corporate landlord implications please refer to the reports taken to Scrutiny Board and Panels during the year.
- 9.2 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 Scrutiny Board - 15.4.14