

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	OBSERVATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS	DRAFT ACTION POINTS
1. Enable more pre-decision scrutiny by aligning meetings of the scrutiny committees more closely with those of the Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is scope to challenge whether more pre-scrutiny will improve the quality of scrutiny work • However, there is an element of pre-scrutiny in place already and strengthening it further will depend to some extent on the response to Recommendation 2 • We would challenge whether aligning meetings (and holding more) is the best way of improving scrutiny • There is scope to look at the scrutiny committee model afresh to see whether it fulfills its purpose • It would be possible to record how much pre-scrutiny takes place • The current committees' work programmes are inconsistent 	<p>To establish a small sub-group (of Audit, Scrutiny and Cabinet Members) who would:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Look at the workload of the committees and research other scrutiny models including support arrangements (b) talk to others about possible models (c) introduce a simple system of recording how much pre-scrutiny takes place. <p>The sub-group to prepare recommendations for consideration by the Council before it starts on its new year in May, 2016</p>
2. Develop a more detailed Cabinet work programme and ensure its availability to the pre-meetings of the scrutiny committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cabinet work programme is currently weak in terms of planning beyond the next quarter • There is a need to look hard at the new Strategic Plan to identify early subjects that require Cabinet decision and note where pre-scrutiny would add value • The level and nature of the dialogue between Cabinet Members and individual scrutiny committees varies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Commissioning specific work on the new Strategic Plan to identify key decision and, subsequently, the right time to feed those into the Scrutiny Forward Work-programme for next year (b) look at standardising the Council's requirements for the dialogue between Cabinet Members and Scrutiny Chairs
3. Apply the scrutiny committees' forward work programmes' selection criteria consistently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Audit Office report praised the selection criteria but criticised that they were not implemented consistently • There is scope to improve further on the criteria asking the scrutiny committees to focus on matters where they can identify where there is scope for improvement 	<p>Undertake specific work with the Scrutiny Forum on the selection criteria for the forward work-programme workshops for 2016/17.</p>
4. Develop resource plans to identify the officer and member input required to support/undertake the programmes of scrutiny and scrutiny investigation work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is difficult since the Wales Audit Office has failed to provide any examples of where this is happening already • However, there is common sense in this and scope to see whether we can improve our current arrangements 	<p>Research into models for assessing scrutiny capacity presenting proposals on that to the Scrutiny Forum</p>

5. Improve the quality, consistency and timeliness of reports / information provided to the scrutiny committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality and nature of performance reports has already been changed and this year is being used to assess whether they have improved as anticipated There is scope to develop further the scrutiny committees' preparatory arrangements so that they set out more clearly what is expected from reports- "What do we want to improve by scrutinising this?" and improve the clarity of scrutiny recommendations 	Develop a clearer focus at the preparatory meetings on what the scrutineers wish to achieve in scrutinising items – leading to clearer requirements on authors and clearer scrutiny recommendations arising from the discussions
6. Provide feedback to the scrutiny committees of all recommendations – whether implemented or not – made to the Cabinet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A successful pilot of a formal submission by a scrutiny committee to the Cabinet has already taken place – this will be developed further during the year. It is possible to develop this reporting system into a log that will, in turn, feed easily into the annual report 	(a) Extending the pilot of a formal report to Cabinet and reporting back to the scrutiny committees (b) Develop this system to create a log on the implementation of scrutiny recommendations
7. Include an assessment in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report of how the work of the scrutiny committees has met the objectives in the Scrutiny Strategy and supported improvements to Council services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The annual report already offers an assessment of what was achieved during the year but the work arising from Recommendation 6 will make that easier It would be possible to come to a general conclusion about implementing the objectives of the Scrutiny Strategy but there must be agreement on a methodology for doing so 	(a) Research into a reasonable methodology to assess the extent to which the objectives of the Scrutiny Strategy have been delivered (b) Invite the Scrutiny Forum to undertake a self-assessment of that (in collaboration with the Centre for Public Scrutiny)
8. Ensure all regulators' recommendations and/or proposals for improvement are reported to, and monitored by, the appropriate scrutiny committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Audit Committee has introduced a system for monitoring the implementation of recommendations or improvement suggestions The Audit Committee should be included more in the mainstream of the Council's scrutiny arrangements 	Ensure follow up from reports to the Audit Committee to preparatory meetings of scrutiny committees in the specific areas for possible inclusion in the scrutiny work programme
9. Implement a new training and development programme for scrutiny committee members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pilot course has already taken place with the Welsh Local Government Association to seek scrutiny members' focus on the purpose of scrutiny The training will be rolled out further during 2016 targeting scrutiny members in particular 	a) Develop the new training provision further targeting attention on the purpose of scrutiny and how to add value b) Holding 1:1 sessions for new scrutiny members c) Prepare a pack on scrutiny committee work for May, 2017