

Organisational response

Title of the report: Review of the effectiveness of scrutiny – Cyngor Gwynedd

Completion date: October 2023

Document reference: 3537 A2023

Ref	Recommendation	Organisational response	Date of completion	Responsible officer
A1	<p>Formulating a scrutiny Programme.</p> <p>A1 - The Cabinet's forward programme and the Council Plan should have more influence on the public scrutiny committees' forward programmes so that the scrutiny output feeds into the decisions planned by the Cabinet.</p>	<p>The Scrutiny committees' annual workshops give detailed attention to the Council Plan, prioritising items of the Plan when they are timely to be scrutinised.</p> <p>We have already moved forward with arrangements to strengthen the Cabinet's forward programme in order to improve the correlation between the Cabinet and Scrutiny forward programme.</p> <p>A new template for Cabinet reports will include specific reference to matters raised by the scrutiny committees operative from September 2023 forward.</p> <p>Annual milestones that need to be achieved for the Council Plan will be shared with the relevant Members and Scrutiny Officers.</p>	<p>Annual</p> <p>Continuous</p> <p>Completed – September 2023</p> <p>October Term 2023</p>	<p>Scrutiny Officers</p> <p>Corporate Directors</p> <p>Corporate Directors</p> <p>Council's Business Support Manager</p>

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A2	<p>Highlight performance information. A2 – Performance information should be given higher visibility within the public scrutiny committees to challenge progress made.</p>	<p>Work is already moving forward as the corporate directors are attending performance challenging meetings jointly with the Scrutiny Members, with the directors supporting the Scrutineers to identify matters to be scrutinised further.</p> <p>Further consideration is given to reporting publicly as the performance challenging arrangements are developed and adapted.</p>	<p>Continuous</p> <p>To be confirmed</p>	<p>Chief Executive and Corporate Director</p> <p>Council’s Business Support Manager</p>
A3	<p>Training. A3 - Use appropriate providers, whether internal or external, should be used to provide training in specialist fields such as questioning skills, financial matters and the Well-being of Future Generations Act, in order to increase</p>	<p>A comprehensive training programme is provided for Councillors, and the first two years following an election are always intensive. Professional providers are used to provide training, whether they be internal or external officers.</p>	<p>Continuous</p>	<p>Head of Democratic Services</p>

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	the members' confidence to challenge effectively.	Training will be arranged in accordance with the need/demand by choosing the most suitable provider, whether that be internal or external.		
A4	<p>Strengthen legislative considerations.</p> <p>A4 - The scrutiny processes should be reviewed to ensure that appropriate emphasis is placed on legislation including the Equality Act 2010 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, to ensure compliance.</p>	<p>We will continue to remind the Councillors of the requirements at the annual training.</p> <p>Work is already moving forward as we already include a leaflet to remind the Councillors of the relevant considerations when sharing the meeting agenda with them.</p>	<p>Continuous</p> <p>Completed – September 2023</p>	<p>Scrutiny Officers</p> <p>Scrutiny Officers</p>

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A5	<p>Scrutiny Investigations.</p> <p>A5 - Consideration should be given to holding a higher number of investigations by inviting a limited number of members to join the task and finish group from every scrutiny committee or all the members, so that those who have an interest in the field get the opportunity to participate and maintain enthusiasm. This will also be a medium to engage with the public.</p>	<p>There has been a reduction in the scrutiny investigations held following covid-19 restrictions. Recommencing the formal scrutiny work in the committees was prioritised. It was decided to recommence the scrutiny investigations at the start of the new Council term.</p> <p>The current arrangements for investigations mean that we try and identify members from amongst the committees for investigations, extending the invitation to all members if there isn't sufficient interest. Our investigations are already a medium to strengthen the engagement with the public.</p>	No action	

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A6	<p>Tracing the impact of scrutiny.</p> <p>A6 - The reporting of scrutiny committee decisions and the adoption of a formal tracking regime should be strengthened, to get the best value for money and publicly highlight the contribution of the scrutiny regime to council governance.</p>	<p>A number of different factors come together in order to improve our arrangements for tracing the impact of scrutiny.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will arrange training for the scrutiny Chairs on how to draw up clear recommendations and/or how to refer a matter to the Cabinet • There are now specific references in Cabinet reports to the considerations raised by scrutiny committees. • Members of the Scrutiny Forum have a responsibility to be self-evaluating their performance, including assessing the impact of scrutiny. • We will consider the role of Scrutiny Chairs to present the findings or 	<p>October 2023</p> <p>Completed – September 2023</p> <p>Continuous</p> <p>To be considered whilst reviewing our</p>	<p>Scrutiny Officers and legal officers</p>

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		recommendations on matters that were scrutinised prior to Cabinet consideration	current scrutiny arrangements prior to recommendation in May 2024	Head of Democratic Services