

<b>Report to</b>	<b>County Council</b>
<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>9 July 2024</b>
<b>Lead Member/Officer</b>	<b>Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group/Steve Price, Democratic Services Manager</b>
<b>Head of Service</b>	<b>Catrin Roberts, Head of Corporate Support Service: People</b>
<b>Report authors</b>	<b>Karen Evans and Rhian Evans, Scrutiny Co-ordinators</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Annual Report of the Council's Scrutiny Committee 2023/24</b>

## **1. What is the report about?**

1.1. The Annual Report of the Council's Scrutiny Committees for 2023/24

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

2.1. To present to Council the Scrutiny Committees' annual report on their activities during 2023/24.

2.2. The report is presented to County Council to comply with Section 7.4.4 of the Council's Constitution which stipulates that the Authority's scrutiny committees must report annually to full Council on their work and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

3.1 That Council considers the Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committees for 2023/24, comments accordingly and approves its publication.

## 4. Report details

- 4.1. The Constitution of Denbighshire County Council stipulates that the Authority's Scrutiny Committees will report annually on their activities during the year to County Council.
- 4.2. The Committees' Annual Report is attached at Appendix 1. It provides the reader with a brief introduction on what scrutiny is and how scrutiny operates, along with an overview of the work undertaken by each committee during the course of the year. It also includes information on how residents can participate and contribute to the scrutiny process. Upon approval the report will be translated and be made available on the Council's website.
- 4.3. The report outlines how Scrutiny has supported and challenged the Council's work throughout the year, via a mixture of pre and post-decision scrutiny; monitoring corporate performance and risk management; assessing the effectiveness of partnership arrangements in delivering services, supporting residents, and delivering community and economic benefit across the county.
- 4.4. During the year Scrutiny continued the practice of engaging with both public and private partner organisations with a view to effectively working together to improve services and outcomes for residents. These organisations are referenced in the report. Scrutiny intends to continue engaging with these and other organisations in future.
- 4.5 The report also provides an overview of:
  - the work of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) for the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board (PSB)
  - the integral role played by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) in securing effective scrutiny;

- the process for proposing a topic for Scrutiny's attention and the method used to determine whether a topic is suitable for detailed examination by Scrutiny; and
- summarises the conclusions of the review resulting from the call-in of a Cabinet decision during the year

4.6 During the 2023/24 year the number of scrutiny requests received from members decreased, with only two requests being received from county councillors, compared to the 14 received from officers, 3 from external sources and 1 from the Governance and Audit Committee. Elected members are encouraged to use the scrutiny route for examining topics which are of concern to them and/or their residents. Councillors are also asked to be ambassadors for Scrutiny, promoting the committees' work amongst residents and encouraging them to seek Scrutiny to examine matters which are of concern to them. Residents can do this via the submission of a Scrutiny proposal [form](#) which can be completed electronically on the Council's website, or submitted as a paper copy (a copy of the form can be found at the end of the attached Annual Report).

4.7 During the forthcoming year a considerable proportion of Scrutiny's time will be taken up with budget setting and monitoring work. The scrutiny committees will also start examining and supporting the Council's Transformation Programme, as the Authority attempts to balance the delivery of quality services with the finite financial resources available to it.

## **5 How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?**

- 5.1 Effective scrutiny will assist the Council to deliver its corporate themes and Plan in line with community needs, residents' wishes and within budget.
- 5.2 The approval of the report will have a neutral contribution towards the Council's ambition to become Net Carbon Zero and Ecologically Positive by 2030, as the

report will only be published in electronic format and will be available to read or download on the Council's intranet site and public website.

## **6 What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

6.1 The publication of the Annual Report forms part of the committee reports pack despatched electronically to county councillors and other recipients. Upon approval and translation, it will be available to read or download on the Council's intranet site and public website. Any costs incurred with respect of the work of task and finish groups will be met from within existing budgets.

## **7 What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**

7.1 A Well-being Impact Assessment (WBIA) is not required for this report as no decision or change of policy is being sought. The Annual Report is presented solely to inform councillors and residents of the Scrutiny Committees' work during the preceding twelve months and as a means of outlining potential future areas of work.

## **8 What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

8.1 Members of the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) have been involved with the process of drafting the Annual Report and consulted on its contents.

## **9 Chief Finance Officer Statement**

9.1 There are no significant financial implications resulting from this report. As mentioned in paragraph 6 above any costs relating to the production of the Report will be contained within existing budgets, as will any costs arising from the establishment of task and finish groups.

## **10 What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

10.1 No risks have been identified with respect to the consideration of the Scrutiny Committees' Annual Report

## **11 Power to make the decision**

11.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000

11.2 Section 7.4.4 of the Council's Constitution.