



COUNCIL – 6TH OCTOBER 2020

SUBJECT: NUMBER OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

- 1.1 The attached report outlined the findings of the Members survey carried out twelve months after the implementation of the current scrutiny committee structure. This report was considered by the Scrutiny Leadership Group on 15th September 2020.
- 1.2 Members were reminded that when the current scrutiny committee structure was adopted at Council in April 2019 where it was agreed that this be reviewed after twelve months. It was explained that all Members were sent a link to survey by email at the end of February 2020 and paper copies of the survey were distributed before a meeting of Council in mid-March 2020.
- 1.3 The attached report outlines the results of the survey showing that a significant majority supported the current number of scrutiny committees. Scrutiny Leadership Group were pleased with the response rate of 79% and agreed that the support of 80% of respondents to retain the current structure was significant.
- 1.4 The report also gave Members comparison data of scrutiny activity during 2019/20 and compared it with the previous 12 months before the new structure was implemented. Members commented on the need to encourage better attendance at scrutiny meetings including pre-meetings. It was noted that the current remote meetings arrangements may have an impact upon attendance so it might be of interest to Scrutiny Leadership group to monitor this and see if it makes a difference.
- 1.5 Additional comments in respect of Members arriving late and leaving meetings early was discussed and how this could be recorded.
- 1.6 Scrutiny Leadership Group noted that as outlined in the report to Cabinet on 22nd July 2020 entitled 'Strengthening Team Caerphilly' there will be a review of Decision Making which will include the scrutiny function. Scrutiny Committee Members will therefore have an opportunity to engage over the coming months on the future direction of the scrutiny function
- 1.7 Following consideration and discussion the Scrutiny Leadership Group unanimously agreed, recommend to Council that:
 - (i) The outcome of the survey is noted and that the current number of scrutiny committees is retained.
- 1.8 Council are asked to consider the report and the above recommendation.

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Appendices:

Appendix Report to Scrutiny Leadership Group 15th September 2020 – Agenda Item 4