



SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP GROUP – 24TH JULY 2014

SUBJECT: SCRUTINY IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN - UPDATE

REPORT BY: SCRUTINY RESEARCH OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Scrutiny Leadership Group on the progress to date on the actions contained in the scrutiny improvement action plan.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report gives an update on the scrutiny improvement action plan, and highlights where actions are completed.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The operation of scrutiny is required by the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent Assembly legislation.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Improvement Action Plan was presented and endorsed by Council on the 8th October 2013. Since then progress has been made against a number of the actions, which are outlined in the updated action plan attached at appendix 1.

Training and Development for Members and Officers

- 4.2 Significant work has been undertaken on training for Members, actions 1 – 3 are completed in full and most of the tasks against actions 4 & 5 are completed. There are outstanding tasks against actions 4 & 5 and arrangements have been made with the Centre for Public Scrutiny to carry out a peer review in September, which follows on from the Gwent Scrutiny Challenge Event.

Scrutiny Development and Organisation

- 4.3 Actions 6 – 11, 13 & 15 are completed. The final task against action 8 was to arrange scrutiny training, which was aiming to measure its success by observing a tangible role for Cabinet Members. Scrutiny training has been arranged for Cabinet Members in September along with a session for the management network on the same day. There also the peer review task against Action 9, which is detailed against actions 4 & 5.

- 4.4 Action 16 is on hold until Welsh Government provides guidance on Designated Persons, which is anticipated next year. Action 12, updating the scrutiny booklet, a revised booklet has been drafted and will shortly be available. Action 14 on public engagement with the public and stakeholders, there is one task outstanding to decide on scrutiny committee co-option arrangements and a report is currently being prepared along with appropriate consultation. Finally for action 17, a revised protocol on Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) is currently being amalgamated with the Crime and Disorder CCfA, and will be reported shortly.

Performance Management

- 4.5 Action 18, refers to WAO service performance report being reported to scrutiny, this is referred to in the Welsh Government White Paper 'Devolution, Democracy and Delivery', with auditors and regulators now directed to report directly to scrutiny committees.
- 4.6 Action 19, refers to member training which has been completed and the booklet has been drafted. Action 20 is partly completed with the training on service improvement plans and Ffynnon to be provided in October/November. Finally in respect of action 21 a report has been drafted and will be reported shortly.

Forward Work Programmes

- 4.7 This refers to action 22 and development of scrutiny committee forward work programmes and is fully completed.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report is for information purposes, so the Council's EqIA process does not need to be applied.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications not contained in the report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications not contained in the report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 There are no consultation responses not contained in the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Scrutiny Leadership note and comment on the progress made in respect of the action plan.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 For Scrutiny Leadership Group to monitor the scrutiny improvement action plan.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000

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Appendices:
Appendix 1 Scrutiny Improvement Action Plan Update