



## **SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP GROUP – 11TH OCTOBER 2018**

**SUBJECT: MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT SCRUTINY PRE-MEETINGS**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 For Scrutiny Leadership Group to be informed of the level of Member attendance at Pre-meetings for each Scrutiny Committee.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 This report provides a detailed breakdown of Members attendance at the Pre-meeting of each of the four Scrutiny Committees (Policy and Resources, Health, Social Care and Wellbeing, Education for Life and Regeneration and Environment) since September 2017.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The operation of scrutiny is required by the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent Assembly legislation.
- 3.2 The self-evaluation proposals contribute to the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016 by ensuring that scrutiny function evaluates its effectiveness and identifies areas for improvement. An effective scrutiny function can ensure that council policies are scrutinised against the following goals:
- A prosperous Wales
  - A resilient Wales
  - A healthier Wales
  - A more equal Wales
  - A Wales of cohesive communities
  - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
  - A globally responsible Wales

### **4. THE REPORT**

- 4.1 Following concerns raised by a Scrutiny Committee Chair, it was agreed that the attendance of Committee Members at Scrutiny Pre-meetings would be monitored.
- 4.2 Pre-meetings for Scrutiny Committees, whilst they were standard practice, altered as a result of the Scrutiny Review, which was conducted by the Wales Audit Office (WAO). It was recommended that the Scrutiny Committee Pre-meeting would be run and lead by the Committee, with attendance by the Scrutiny Officer to provide advice and guidance on procedural matters. Since it's introduction, some Scrutiny Chairs have raised concerns at the level of member attendance at the pre-meetings and felt that, in order to encourage effective

scrutiny, member attendance at pre-meetings would be monitored and commenced at the first round of Scrutiny Committees, following August recess in 2017.

4.3 Attendance at each Scrutiny Committee pre-meeting was logged and the attendance figures for the period September 2017 to September 2018 are outlined in the table below.

Education for Life Scrutiny Committee	26th Sept 2017	7th Nov 2017	7th Dec 2017	9th Jan 2018	26th Feb 2018	19th April 2018	24th April 2018	22nd May 2017	3rd July 2018	25 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2018
Member Attendance at Pre-Meetings	11	11	10	14	12	13	11	12	10	13
Attendance at Committee	11	10	12	14	12	14	11	13	11	13

Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	12th Sept 2017	24 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2017	5th Dec 2017	18th Dec 2017	6th Feb 2018	20th March 2018	1st May 2018	19th June 2018	11 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018
Member Attendance at Pre-Meetings	12	11	14	8	12	9	9	9	10
Attendance at Committee	12	12	16	8	12	9	10	12	13

Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee	3rd Oct 2017	14th Nov 2017	4th Dec 2017	16th Jan 2018	27th Feb 2018	10th April 2018	29th May 2018	6 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018
Member Attendance at Pre-Meetings	11	12	10	13	7	14	13	10
Attendance at Committee	11	12	10	13	7	14	14	10

Partnerships Scrutiny Committee	14 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2017	20 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2018	13 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018
Member Attendance at Pre-Meetings	8	9	10
Attendance at Committee	9	11	10

Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny	19th Sept 2017	1st Nov 2017	12th Dec 2017	13th Dec 2017	13th Feb 2018	27th March 2018	15th May 2018	26th June 2018	18 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018
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Committee									
Member Attendance at Pre-Meetings	10	9	11	10	10	10	12	10	12
Attendance at Committee	11	10	11	11	10	13	13	12	12

4.4 The data demonstrates that generally most Scrutiny Committee Members who are present at scrutiny committee meetings attend the pre-meeting. In some cases Members arrive late at the pre-meeting and have not been included as in full attendance.

## **5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

5.1 This report contributes to the well-being goals as set out in links to strategy above. It is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in that by attending and conducting pre-meetings, the scrutiny function will be better organised for each meeting and encourage more effective questioning and scrutiny. In addition, this should ensure that the scrutiny function is a more effective critical friend when reviewing services and policies and ensure it considers the wellbeing goals.

## **6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 This report is for information only therefore an equalities impact assessment is not required.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no financial implications that are not contained in the report.

## **8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no personnel implications that are not contained in the report.

## **9. CONSULTATIONS**

9.1 There are no consultation responses not contained in the report.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 Scrutiny Leadership Group is asked to consider and note the content of the report.

## **11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

11.1 To ensure that pre-meetings are effective, are well attended and assist effective Scrutiny.

## **12. STATUTORY POWER**

12.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

12.2 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

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