



# **Carmarthenshire County Council's Scrutiny Function**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

# CONTENTS

<b>Foreword</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>The Scrutiny Committees</b>	<b>5</b>
Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee	5
Education & Children Scrutiny Committee	6
Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee	7
Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee	9
Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee	10
<b>Other Activities during 2020/21</b>	<b>11</b>
Chairs & Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny Forum	11
Member Development Sessions	11
ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group	11
Swansea Bay City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee	12
Wales Scrutiny Managers Network	12
Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011	12
<b>Looking ahead to 2021/22</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Support for the Scrutiny Function</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Scrutiny Committee Chairs &amp; Vice-Chairs during 2020/21</b>	<b>15</b>

## Foreword

Welcome to this year's Annual Report into how the various Scrutiny Committees work within the Council. This year has been a very challenging year for our citizens, council staff, councillors and our committees. COVID has impacted every area of our lives and this includes the committee structure of the council. For several months during covid there were no committees meeting but at our earliest opportunity the whole council sought to get back to some sort of normality as quickly as possible. Normality was achieved through the use of I.T. and video conferencing software such as Microsoft Teams/Zoom. The Chairs and Vice Chairs Group met regularly to ask when such facilities would be available and after a brief interregnum committee meetings were getting back to normal in the autumn period. Chairs and Vice Chairs also met with our Executive Board to discuss the issue of scrutiny continuing in Carmarthenshire. Scrutiny at any level of government is essential so we were all pleased when meetings started taking place again.

All Scrutiny Committees have worked as best they could during the COVID pandemic of 2020/2021 and are now looking at their forward work programmes for the coming year (2021/2022). I hope this report gives you a useful insight into what is going on within the scrutiny function of Carmarthenshire County Council.

Each committee has its own area of responsibility but there is no doubt dealing with the impacts of COVID has taken up a lot of committee time this year, with every committee looking so see how their respective council departments have coped with the pandemic. That is not to say every committee was dominated with COVID but it certainly became a standing item for councillors to understand what was happening to departments throughout this period of time.

I would also like to place on record from all councillors and committees our thanks to the staff of Carmarthenshire County Council. Departments were depleted due to personnel helping with track and trace and other aspects of pandemic management, alongside our partners in health and other areas of government.

The delivery of scrutiny may have changed forever, but I would like to thank the Democratic Services Unit for helping facilitate the changes to remote working over the last year and are a vital cog in ensuring scrutiny continues in the Council. Hopefully the worst of the pandemic is over and we look forward to the next year of Council getting back to normal.



Cllr. Giles Morgan  
Chair of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny Forum  
Carmarthenshire County Council's Scrutiny Champion

## Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire

Scrutiny plays a key role in improving the services that the people and children of Carmarthenshire use. The majority of decisions are made by the Executive Board of 10 County Councillors. Scrutiny offers the other 64 Councillors an opportunity to influence those decisions and act as a 'critical friend'. It is also useful in ensuring that Council policies respect current priorities, as well as promoting efficiency and encouraging effective partnership working with external bodies. Scrutiny Committees' main roles and responsibilities are to:

- Examine how well the Executive Board and Council are performing.
- Hold the Executive Board to account and seek to promote open and transparent decision-making.
- Monitor the performance of the Council's services and functions.
- Review decisions made by the Executive Board where appropriate.
- Assist the Executive Board in the development, monitoring and review of policy.
- Scrutinise, as a key element of the consultation process, the proposed revenue budget strategy and capital investment programmes.
- Enable the participation of external organisations and partners in consideration of issues that may impact upon the delivery of Council and countywide priorities.

All non-executive councillors can be appointed to at least one Scrutiny committee, depending on their specialist interests or expertise.

Carmarthenshire County Council has 5 Scrutiny Committees:-

- Community & Regeneration
- Education & Children
- Environmental & Public Protection
- Policy & Resources
- Social Care & Health

The Committees normally meet 8 times a year on a 6 weekly basis to consider issues and reports included in a scrutiny forward work programme, which is developed at the beginning of the municipal year. Additional meetings are sometimes arranged if required and special or joint meetings may be held to consider urgent or cross-cutting issues.

The Scrutiny Committees are politically balanced to reflect, as far as possible, the political composition of the Council as a whole. The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny Committees are appointed at the beginning of each municipal year for a period of one year (e.g. May 2020 to April 2021) by Council. They also participate in the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny Forum, which meets on a quarterly basis to oversee the strategic direction of Scrutiny.

## The Scrutiny Committees

### Standard Scrutiny Monitoring Reports / Items

All Scrutiny Committees receive the following monitoring reports as standard and have previously agreed the frequency and format of these reports:-

**Performance Monitoring Reports** – One of the principal roles of a Scrutiny Committee is to monitor the performance of services and functions under its remit. They undertake this work mainly through the consideration of half-yearly performance monitoring reports, which provide a balanced picture of performance. In addition, the Committees receive business plans and compliments and complaints monitoring information.

**Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Reports** – Each Scrutiny Committee receives half-yearly reports on the revenue and capital budgets for the services within their remit.

**Actions & Referrals Updates** – During the course of the municipal year several recommendations and requests for additional information are made by Scrutiny Committees to assist them in discharging their scrutiny role. Quarterly Action and Referral Reports are produced to provide an update on progress against the recommendations and actions requested.

## Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

The Community Scrutiny Committee has 13 Members and its remit covers:

- Public and Private Sector Housing
- Housing Services including Council Housing
- New Homes
- Repairs and Maintenance
- Council Managed Buildings
- Regeneration
- Economic Development and Community Regeneration
- Planning Policy
- Recreation and Leisure – Sport, Libraries and Museums
- Swansea Bay City Deal Regional Projects

**Committee meetings** – During 2020/21, in addition to its regular monitoring reports, the Committee considered reports on a wide range of topics including:-

- Impact of Covid-19 on Environment Department Services covered by the Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee;
- Impact of Covid-19 on Homes & Safer Communities;
- Impact of Covid-19 on Carmarthenshire's Leisure Services;
- Covid-19 Impact Report for Regeneration;
- Local Development Orders Carmarthen and Ammanford Town Centres;
- Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2018-2033 – Representations Received and Focused Changes;
- Pendine Outdoor Education Centre;
- Pendine Attractor Project;

- Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation 2021/22 to 2023/24;
- Housing Revenue Account Budget and Housing Rent Setting for 2021/22;
- The Carmarthenshire Homes Standard Plus (CHS+) Business Plan 2021-24;
- Community Cohesion Action Plan;
- Corporate Strategy 2018/23 – Update April 2021;
- Carmarthenshire Archives Forward Plan;
- Welsh Public Library Standards 2017-2020;
- Department for Communities Departmental Business Plan 2021/22;
- Regeneration Extract of the Chief Executive’s Departmental Business Plan 2021/22;
- Environment Departmental Business Plan 2021/22.

**Task and Finish Review** – The Committee did not undertake a Task and Finish Review during the 2020/21 municipal year.

**Site Visits** – Due to the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions the Committee was unable to undertake any site visits during the 2020/21 municipal year. Consideration will be given to topics for further scrutiny investigation during 2021/22.

**Development Sessions** – Whilst no service specific development sessions were arranged for the Committee during 2020/21, a number of all member development sessions were held, details of which can be found on pages 11 and 12.

In addition to the above, several budget seminars were held during January as part of the Council’s consultation process on the 2021/22 Revenue Budget and five year capital programme

## Education & Children Scrutiny Committee

The Education & Children Scrutiny Committee has 19 Members, five of which are co-opted Members. Only the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee has co-opted Members and they represent:

- Parent Governor Member for Area 1 – Dinefwr
- Parent Governor Member for Area 2 – Carmarthen
- Parent Governor Member for Area 3 – Llanelli
- Roman Catholic Church Representative
- Church in Wales Representative

The Committee’s remit covers:-

- Schools including Effectiveness and Access to Education
- Catering
- Inclusion/Special Education Needs
- Community Education
- Children’s Services
- Welsh Language (in the community)
- Curriculum
- Wellbeing

**Committee meetings** – During 2020/21, in addition to its regular monitoring reports, the Committee considered reports on a wide range of topics including:-

- Impact of Covid-19 on Carmarthenshire's Children and Young People;
- The Education & Children's Services Strategy 2020-2025;
- MEP – Proposal to Shorten the Internal School Organisation Decision Making and Determination Process
- MEP – Proposal to Relocate Ysgol Heol Goffa to a New Site and Increase its Capacity from 75 to 120;
- MEP – Proposal to Review Primary Education Provision in the Blaenau and Llandybie Areas;
- MEP – Reconfigure and Remodel Behaviour Support Services at Ysgol Rhydygors to Improve Provision for Children and Young People;
- MEP – Proposal to Change the Age Range at Swiss Valley Primary School From 4-11 to 3-11;
- MEP – Proposal to Review Primary Education Provision in the Mynyddygarreg and Gwenllian Areas;
- Staff and Pupil Wellbeing and Mental Health – January 2021 Update;
- Financial Challenges Facing Schools;
- Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation 2021/22-2023/24;
- An Evaluation into How Carmarthenshire's Education & Children's Services Department Responded to Covid-19;
- MEP – Proposal to Change the Nature of Provision at Model VA Primary School;
- MEP – Proposal to Change the Nature of Provision at Ysgol y Felin;
- WESP update;
- Curriculum for Wales;
- Departmental Business Plan.

**Task & Finish Review** – The Committee did not undertake a Task and Finish Review during the 2020/21 municipal year.

**Site Visits** – Due to the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions the Committee was unable to undertake any school visits during the 2020/21 municipal year. Consideration will be given to topics for further scrutiny investigation during 2021/22.

**Development Sessions** – Whilst no service specific development sessions were arranged for the Committee during 2020/21, a number of all member development sessions were held, details of which can be found on pages 11 and 12.

In addition to the above, several budget seminars were held during January as part of the Council's consultation process on the 2021/22 Revenue Budget and five year capital programme

## **Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee**

The Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee has 14 Members and its remit covers:-

- Waste and Environmental Services including Refuse Collection, Street Cleansing, Grounds Maintenance, Building Cleaning (including schools, where relevant), Public Toilets
- Transport and Streetscene including Highways, Street Lighting, Bridges, Traffic Management, Parking Services, Cycle Paths and Rights of Way
- Environmental Enforcement including Litter, Dog Fouling, Abandoned Vehicles etc.
- Planning Enforcement
- Trading Standards
- Community Safety Issues including Crime & Disorder referrals (to include a power to make a report or recommendations to the County Council and/or the Council's Executive Board)
- Environmental and Public Health Pest Control
- Social Inclusion
- The Community
- Biodiversity
- Zero Carbon

**Committee meetings** – During 2020/21, in addition to its regular monitoring reports, the Committee considered reports on a wide range of topics including:-

- Impact of Covid-19 on the Environment Department's Services Covered by the Environmental & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee;
- Impact of Covid-19 on Homes & Safer Communities;
- Highway Asset Management Plan – Annual Statement Report 2020;
- Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation 2021/22 to 2023/24;
- Corporate Strategy 2018/23 – Update April 2021;
- Covid-19 and the Financial Exploitation Safeguarding Scheme (FESS);
- Net Zero Carbon Plan – Update Report;
- Environment Departmental Business Plan 2021/22;
- Department for Communities Departmental Business Plan 2021/22;
- Chief Executive's Departmental Business Plan 2021/22;
- Future Kerbside Waste Collection Strategy.

**Task & Finish Review** – In June 2019 the Committee resolved to undertake a review into Carmarthenshire County Council's Trading Standards initiative "The Financial Exploitation Safeguarding Scheme" (FESS). Initially, it was hoped that the Group would be in a position to present a final report to the Committee in April 2020, however, early March saw further work on the review being suspended due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Group resumed its meetings in a virtual capacity from September 2020 when it continued to develop its final report and formulate its recommendations, presenting the report to the committee in April 2021 when it was resolved that the report be received and referred to the Executive Board for consideration. The Executive Board will consider the report and recommendations during the 2021/22 municipal year.

**Site Visits** – Due to the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions the Committee was unable to undertake any site visits during the 2020/21 municipal year. Consideration will be given to topics for further scrutiny investigation during 2021/22.

**Development Sessions** – Whilst no service specific development sessions were arranged for the Committee during 2020/21, a number of all member development sessions were held, details of which can be found on pages 11 and 12.



In addition to the above, several budget seminars were held during January as part of the Council's consultation process on the 2021/22 Revenue Budget and five year capital programme

## **Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee**

The Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee has 13 Members and its remit covers:-

- Performance Monitoring
- Communication
- Customer Services
- Emergency Planning
- Cross-cutting Scrutiny Issues
- People Management and Performance
- Financial Planning and Resources Finance
- Scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and Policies
- Procurement
- Physical Assets
- Non-housing Maintenance
- Information Technology
- Wellbeing of Future Generations Wales Act 2015
- Scrutinising the work of the Carmarthenshire Public Service Board

**Committee meetings** - During 2020/21, in addition to its regular monitoring reports, the Committee considered reports on a wide range of topics including:-

- Impact of Covid-19 on Non-Housing Maintenance;
- Impact of Covid-19 on ICT and Corporate Policy;
- Impact of Covid-19 on the People Management Service;
- Covid-19 Service Update Administration & Law Division;
- Impact of Covid-19 on Marketing & Media;
- Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation 2021/22 to 2023/24;
- Five Year Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2025/26;
- Treasury Management Policy & Strategy 2021/22;
- Corporate Strategy 2018/23 – Update April 2021;
- Carmarthenshire County Council Corporate Complaints Policy;
- Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2019/20 and Action Plan 2020/24;
- Welsh Language Annual Report 2019/20;
- Sickness Absence Monitoring Report;
- Call In of Executive Decision – Land at Penprys, Llanelli;
- Chief Executive's Departmental Business Plan 2021/22;
- Corporate Services Departmental Business Plan 2021/22;
- Environment Departmental Business Plan 2021/22;
- Digital Transformation Strategy 2021-2024.

**Task & Finish Review** – The Committee did not undertake a Task and Finish Review during 2020/21. Consideration will be given to topics for further scrutiny investigation during 2021/22.

**Site Visits** – In view of the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions the Committee was unable to undertake any site visits.

**Development Sessions** – In addition to those development sessions listed on pages 11 and 12 to which all members were invited, the Committee also attended the following:-

- Treasury Management Functions – March 2021

In addition to the above, several budget seminars were held during January as part of the Council's consultation process on the 2021/22 Revenue Budget and five year capital programme

## **Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee**

The Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee has 14 Members and its remit covers:-

- Social Care – Care and Support Services for Adults including Learning Disability and Safeguarding Services
- Mental Health
- Integrated Services - Health

**Committee Meetings** – During 2020/21, in addition to its regular monitoring reports, the Committee considered reports on a wide range of topics including:-

- Impact of Covid-19 on Carmarthenshire's Adult Social Care Services;
- Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Inspection of Integrated Services, Progress Update on Recommendations Arising from Inspection;
- Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation 2021/22 to 2023/24;
- Corporate Strategy 2018/23 – Update April 2021;
- Impact of Covid-19 on Carmarthenshire's Adult Social Care Services;
- Unpaid Carers in Carmarthenshire – Strategic, Local and Covid Related Developments;
- Department for Communities Departmental Business Plan 2021/22;
- Learning Disability Strategy 2020-2025;
- Adult Social Care Complaints and Compliments Report 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

**Task and Finish Review** – The Committee did not undertake a Task and Finish Review during the 2020/21 municipal year.

**Site Visits** – Due to the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions the Committee was unable to undertake any site visits during the 2020/21 municipal year. Consideration will be given to topics for further scrutiny investigation during 2021/22.

**Development Sessions** – In addition to those development sessions listed on pages 11 and 12 to which all members were invited, the Committee also received the following Scrutiny Committee specific updates/presentations at development meetings during the course of the year. Many of these topics were requested following consideration of reports at meetings:-

- Covid-19 Testing (including Care Home testing) – December 2020;
- Community Access to Hot Meals – January 2021;
- Transformation/ICF Programme Update – January 2021;
- Regional Partnership Board Update – January 2021;
- Older People’s Day Services Recovery Plan – January 2021;
- Food Poverty/Tackling Poverty – February 2021;
- Befriending Service – March 2021;
- Connect to Kindness – March 2021.

In addition to the above, several budget seminars were held during January as part of the Council’s consultation process on the 2021/22 Revenue Budget and five year capital programme

## **Other Activities During 2020/21**

### **Chairs & Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny Forum**

The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Council’s Scrutiny Committees usually meet on a quarterly basis to discuss issues relating to the scrutiny function. The Forum, which was established in 2004, is chaired by the Chair of the Policy & Resources Committee, who is also the Council’s ‘Scrutiny Champion’. During 2020/21 the Forum met on one occasion.

### **Member Development Sessions**

The following development sessions/seminars were held during 2020/21, to which all members were invited:-

- Microsoft Teams training for virtual meetings – numerous sessions held in June 2020;
- Zoom training for virtual meetings – numerous sessions held in June 2020;
- Mod.gov new app training (delivered by Civica) – October 2020;
- Scrutiny Training (delivered by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny) – October 2020;
- Online Scrutiny (delivered by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny) – November, 2020;
- All member planning seminar – Section 106 Agreements and Unilateral Undertakings – February 2021;
- Covid-19 Vaccination Briefing (Hywel Dda University Health Board) – February 2021;
- All member planning seminar – Ash Dieback Disease and the County Council’s Roles and Responsibilities – March 2021;
- Growing Carmarthenshire: Progressive Procurement, Food Supply Chains and Future Opportunities – March 2021;
- All member planning seminar – Rural Enterprise Dwellings – March 2021;
- All member planning seminar – Enforcement – April 2021.

In addition, several departmental budget seminars were held.

### **ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group**

The ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group is a regional group that consists of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of all the Education Scrutiny Committees from across the ERW consortium. The aim of the Group is to ensure there is consistent scrutiny across the region on matters within the remit of ERW. It meets twice a year to discuss ERW items and the opportunity is also taken

to consider other education items of common interest. The meetings take place on a rota basis between the Local Authorities that form the ERW consortium. The Chair of the Group is also rotated and is normally the Chair of the hosting Local Authority. Previous meetings have been productive and Estyn views the Group as a strength for the consortium. The meetings are administered by the City & County of Swansea's Scrutiny Team. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee have attended two meetings of this regional group during the past year. Carmarthenshire County Council hosted the Group meeting held in November 2020.

### **Swansea Bay City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee**

The Swansea Bay City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee is a regional scrutiny committee consisting of 12 non-executive members of the four Swansea Bay City Deal Constituent Authorities. The Joint Scrutiny Committee was established in July 2018 to review and scrutinise the Swansea Bay City Deal Joint Committee. It aims to ensure greater public accountability over decisions made by the Joint Committee and any of its sub-committees and related entities. This complements Local Authority scrutiny work on individual projects of the City Deal that fall within their remit. The Joint Scrutiny Committee is hosted by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. The Joint Scrutiny Committee meets on a quarterly basis. The first meeting was held at Carmarthenshire County Council in November 2018. Three members of Carmarthenshire County Council sit on the Joint Scrutiny Committee, including the Scrutiny Champion. Two meetings were held during the 2020/21 municipal year.

### **Wales Scrutiny Managers Network**

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic meetings of the Wales Scrutiny Network for 2020/21 were cancelled.

During 2021/22 the Network will focus on the following topics:-

- Scrutiny and the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, to include Scrutiny of Corporate Joint Committees and the new performance and governance duties;
- Practice sharing (Scrutiny annual reports; measuring the impact of Scrutiny; and future plans for public engagement in scrutiny);
- Information and induction for new scrutiny members post elections.

### **Local Government Wales Measure 2011**

Forward work programmes for all Scrutiny Committees are available on the Authority's Scrutiny pages. Chairs of Scrutiny Committees are appointed in accordance with Part 6 of the Measure.

### **Looking Ahead to 2021/22**

Each Scrutiny Committee must develop and publish a forward work programme for the forthcoming year and an annual report outlining the work of the previous year. All annual reports for 2020/21 have been completed and approved by the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

At the beginning of each municipal year, members discuss what they feel are the priority topics for their Committee and develop a draft forward work programme. The forward work programme planning also provides members with the opportunity to consider potential Member Development Sessions and topics for further scrutiny investigation. The forward work programmes and the annual reports are available to view on the Council's website.

The Council continues to face serious budgetary pressures and needs to continue to identify and achieve more savings and efficiencies. A key achievement for the Council will be to maintain and deliver improvements to services, whilst meeting the required savings targets. Scrutiny Committees will continue to contribute and challenge in a constructive way to support the Council in meeting these challenges.

Key policies, plans and performance will continue to be monitored and scrutinised. The Council's overarching policies and plans include: the Annual Report and Improvement Plan, Wellbeing Objectives, Ageing Well Plan and Corporate Strategy. The Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee has the overarching remit for corporate policy, strategy and performance. However, such plans and objectives also cross over into other scrutiny areas. Where appropriate, all Scrutiny Committees will consider elements of such plans and policies relevant to their remits. Innovative solutions will be sought to reduce duplication and waste, such as more use of joint committee working.

Other key areas that the Committees will be focussing on include:-

**Community & Regeneration** – Antisocial Behaviour; Adopted Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan Annual Monitoring Report; Section 106 Agreements; HRA Budget Service Charges and Rent Setting 2022/23; Carmarthenshire Home Standards Plus (Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2022-25); Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Report 2020/21; Revenue Budget Consultation 2022/23-2024/25; 5 Year Capital Programme Budget Consultation.

**Education & Children** – Youth Support Services; Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Transformation Action Plan; School Engagement Sessions; Attendance – Education Recovery Plan; Welsh in Education Strategic Plan; Children's Services Increased Referral Rates; Wellbeing & Mental Health/Covid-19; Tackling NEETs (Not In Education Employment or Training) and Funding Challenges; School Improvement Arrangements; Effectiveness of New ERW Model; Revenue Budget Consultation 2022/23-2024/25.

**Environmental & Public Protection** – Air Quality Management Future Delivery Plan; Highways Maintenance Manual; Flood Response; Electrical Vehicle Strategy; Environment Act Forward Plan Update; Public Conveniences Report; Revenue Budget Consultation 2022/23-2024/25; Net Zero Carbon Action Plan.

**Policy & Resources** – Carmarthenshire Wellbeing Plan Annual Report & Public Service Board Update; CCTV Policy; Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report 2020-21; Annual Report on the Welsh Language; Annual Treasury Management and Prudential Indicator Report; Annual Digital Transformation (and Technology) Strategy Report; Digital Schools Strategy Annual Report; Sickness Absence Monitoring Reports; TIC (Transformation Innovation Change) Annual Report; Revenue Budget Consultation 2022/23-2024/25; 5 Year Capital Programme 2022/23-2026/27; Treasury Management Policy & Strategy 2022/23.

**Social Care & Health** – Mental Health General Update; Covid-19 Position Statement; Draft Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services; Annual Report on the Wellbeing Objectives; Annual Safeguarding Report; Departmental Business Plans; Adult Social Services Complaints and Compliments Report; Dementia Action Plan; Residential Care Update (In-house and Independent); Revenue Budget Consultation 2022/23-2024/25; Mental Health Update (including impact of Covid); Services & Support for Children and Young People (Multi Agency Forum Update); Autism Update; Domiciliary Care Update;

Carers Update; Learning Disability Strategy 2021-26; Area Planning Board's Drug & Alcohol Misuse Annual Report; Area Planning Board's Substance Misuse Annual Report.

## **Support for the Scrutiny Function**

Support for the Scrutiny function is provided by the Democratic Services Unit, based in the Administration & Law Division of the Chief Executive's Department. The support provided includes:-

- Providing support and constitutional advice to the Council's Scrutiny Committees and to Members of those Committees as well as producing minutes of their meetings and ensuring items arising from those meetings are actioned
- Giving support and advice in relation to the functions of the Council's Scrutiny Committees to executive and non-executive Members of the Council and its Officers
- Managing the strategic development of Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire through engaging in national and regional Scrutiny networks and initiatives, supporting the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny Forum and the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Executive Board Forum
- Advising and supporting the implementation of the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 as guidance is published
- Managing the co-ordination and development of the Scrutiny forward work programmes in conjunction with Scrutiny Members
- Managing and co-ordinating Scrutiny review work, including the operation of scrutiny task and finish groups, authoring reports in conjunction with the groups, and assisting in the implementation and monitoring of completed reviews
- Managing the Scrutiny Member development programme.
- Despatching agendas for Scrutiny Committee meetings a minimum of 4 working days prior to the meeting.

For more information on scrutiny in Carmarthenshire, including work programmes, task and finish reports and annual reports, visit the County Council's website at: [www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/scrutiny](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/scrutiny)

To contact the Democratic Services Unit, please call 01267 224028 or email: [scrutiny@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

## Scrutiny Committee Chairs & Vice-Chairs during 2020/21

### Policy & Resources

Cllr. Giles Morgan  
Chair  
(Swiss Valley)  
Independent

Cllr. Gareth John  
Vice-Chair  
(Carmarthen Town South)  
Plaid Cymru

### Community & Regeneration

Cllr. Fozia Akhtar  
Chair  
(Llwynhendy)  
Labour

Cllr. Gareth Thomas  
Vice-Chair  
(Hendy)  
Plaid Cymru

### Education & Children

Cllr. Darren Price  
Chair  
(Gorslas)  
Plaid Cymru

Cllr. Edward Thomas  
Vice-Chair  
(Llandeilo)  
Independent

### Environmental & Public Protection

Cllr. John James  
Chair  
(Burry Port)  
Labour

Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen  
Vice-Chair  
(Gorslas)  
Plaid Cymru

### Social Care & Health

Cllr. Gwyneth Thomas  
Chair  
(Llangennech)  
Plaid Cymru

Cllr. Ieuan Davies  
Vice-Chair  
(Llanybydder)  
Independent