



# Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22

Scrutiny ... engaging today ... shaping tomorrow





## Welcome to Cardiff's Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22

This Scrutiny Annual Report captures the achievements of Scrutiny in 2021/22. The past five years have seen a significant level of scrutiny growth, born out of growing collaboration on policy development and swift adaptation in times of emergency. This year, though challenging times have continued, the Council has adapted to a world of recovery and renewal, continuing to learn from delivering services in a time of crisis. Scrutiny has played its part as the challenging voice, continuing a full programme of remote online meetings and in-depth inquiries, to ensure full accountability.

Within Cardiff Council our critical friend work, expressing multiple stakeholder voices to test the delivery of key Council commitments, is very much valued. This report also marks the conclusion of the 2017-2022 administration and, as such, we have taken the liberty of reflecting on some of our achievements during the last five years (pages 9-12), as well as our work in the last year.

The reader may be forgiven for asking what is Scrutiny, despite its vital role in modern local government over many years. Cardiff Council has five scrutiny committees offering

locally elected councillors an opportunity to represent their communities and convey their experience of council services as an important part in the Council's decision-making processes. Where it is effectively delivered, Scrutiny has proved both critical to the policy-making process, and to the successful implementation of those policies that make a real difference to the lived experiences of Cardiff's residents, businesses, visitors, and commuters. Scrutiny is a strong voice within the Council. We continue to seek improvement in connecting with all who use council services and we want to hear more from you (pages 7/8).

## Scrutiny Chairs - Our Perspective



I am very proud to have been Chair of the Children & Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee. My focus has always been to give children and young people a voice and improve outcomes for them. Our role as "critical friends" to decision-makers has been my committee's ethos, and I feel we end this administration with a range of key achievements that have made a real difference to the lives of younger citizens.

I would like to commend the hard work, support and dedication of elected Members, co-optees and youth council representatives who have made up this Committee, and the scrutiny officers who provide us with first class support. I'd like to thank Cabinet Members, Officers, partners, and other witnesses who have taken time to address the Committee and share their expertise and knowledge with us.

Going forward, I would call for continued support and recognition of the role of scrutiny committees. It's a wonderful opportunity for Members to bring their knowledge and expertise to the table; be the voice of citizens; and play a key role in informing change and improvement.

**Councillor Lee Bridgeman, Chair, Children & Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee**

## Scrutiny Chairs - Our Perspective



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“Scrutiny matters. It is an essential part of good Council governance and the most effective means of holding decision makers to account. It ensures openness and transparency in the governance process and allows more voices to inform decision making. It is therefore fundamental that Scrutiny continues to be seen as a respected tool for independent self-assessment, a driver for service improvement and a valued contributor toward policy development.

During this administration, CASSC Members have worked hard to provide a constructive ‘critical friend’ challenge and ensure strong outcomes for the residents’ we represent. We have analysed and put forward recommendations on a range of key Council services, such as accommodation provision for adults with a learning disability and access to homelessness provision. We have closely monitored Council performance and quality of services, particularly in the wake of the pandemic. We have worked closely with the service area, and local partnership boards, and contributed to a wide range of Council policies.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time chairing the CASSC Committee, and I would urge any Member, who wants to influence Council policy, to get involved. I wish to thank all those involved in Scrutiny, from fellow Chairs, Committee Members, Cabinet Members, senior, and support officers for their dedication, frankness, and continued support.”

**Cllr Shaun Jenkins, Chair, Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee**

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“...This is my final Scrutiny Annual Report and I want to use this opportunity to emphasise the importance of good scrutiny in ensuring accountability and transparency. These are essential for local democracy to flourish, and scrutiny provides a key mechanism to hold decision-makers to account, publicise council proposals, and ensure that the voice of local people is heard and helps shape final plans.

For scrutiny to be effective, there needs to be a willingness from the administration to engage with us and to consider us a critical friend. As far as my committee is concerned, this has indeed been the case, with Cabinet Members and Officers eagerly engaging with us and responding positively to our observations and recommendations.

We are fortunate in Cardiff to have an extremely efficient and professional Scrutiny Service that leads the way in how it supports scrutiny in Cardiff. I hope that future administrations recognise this fact and continue to provide Scrutiny with the support it needs in order to continue to deliver effective scrutiny.

I would like to thank members of my committee, past and present, for the way they have supported me during my period as Chair, as well as the Scrutiny Officers who have made everything possible.”

**Cllr Nigel Howells, Chair, Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee**

## Scrutiny Chairs - Our Perspective

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“I am proud to have chaired the Environmental Scrutiny Committee for the whole of this administration and pleased committee membership has remained largely the same throughout this time, testament to Members’ interest and commitment to drive improvement in the key areas we scrutinise.

This Committee tackles some of the areas of most interest to residents – waste and recycling services, highways, and transport schemes, and how the Council is responding to the Nature and Climate Emergencies. Throughout our scrutinies, we have challenged proposals to ensure they are fit for purpose and invited stakeholders and experts to share their views and knowledge with us to inform our recommendations.

This past year, I chaired the Joint Scrutiny Inquiry on the replacement Local Development Plan (LDP), resulting in recommendations to improve consultation and ensure the next stages have accessibility, inclusivity, and environmental sustainability at their core. I have also chaired an Inquiry on Supplementary Planning Guidance, which will report in the new administration.

Having decided not to stand for re-election, I urge the new administration to support effective scrutiny, which can only benefit the Council and the residents of Cardiff.”

**Cllr Ramesh Patel, Chair, Environmental Scrutiny Committee**

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“...It has been a privilege to represent Cardiff residents for 23 years, and to actively participate in the Council’s Scrutiny function, with nine years in total as Chair of the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee.

Scrutiny represents an excellent model of governance in local decision-making. Effective and independent scrutiny committees are now an historic feature of Cardiff Council. During the last 5 years our influence on the work of the Cabinet has reached an all-time high. This year my committee has influenced corporate policy and performance arrangements and examined closely the issues it will be important to get right as a new style of hybrid working emerges from the pandemic. As with so many new ventures, it is effective and inspiring leadership at all levels that can deliver successful outcomes.

As local leaders ourselves, Members have considerable experience of understanding frontline Council services and the views of our electors, conveying valuable real-time knowledge to inform decision-making. Beyond that, a scrutiny committee marches on the strength of members’ questioning skills, reinforced by their engagement and commitment over the year. Scrutiny is valuable to Council services, it is valuable to all who live, work, and play in our city, and it is valuable to the Members who make it happen. For this reason, I trust that one important legacy is simply that we capture its value by closely monitoring the impact and service improvements flowing from the many recommendations which emerge from scrutiny.

I encourage new members to participate, and I commend this report in its attempt at achieving just that.”

**Cllr David Walker, Chair, Policy Review & Performance Committee**

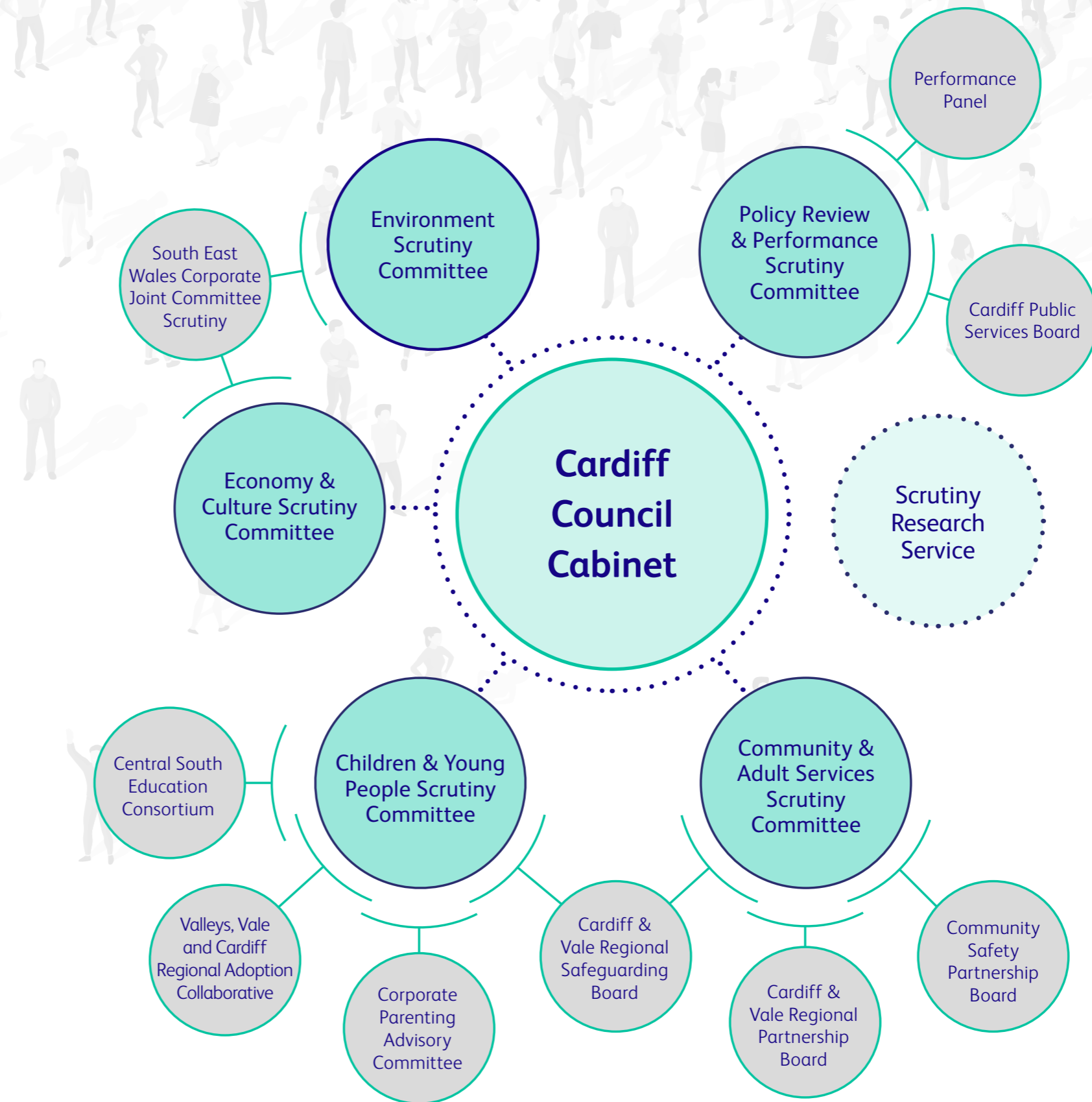
## Our governance role

Cardiff Council's five Scrutiny Committees fulfil a statutory responsibility placed on local authorities by UK and Welsh Governments to review and scrutinise decisions and actions taken by the Cabinet in relation to the delivery of services, to improve the wellbeing of residents. We also have various statutory responsibilities for the scrutiny of important partnerships established under Welsh Government legislation. In short we shine a light on the effectiveness of local partnership working in which the Council plays a leading role.

The Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee has statutory responsibility for scrutiny of Cardiff's Public Services Board. The Community and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee has responsibility for scrutiny of both the Cardiff & Vale Regional Partnership Board and a statutory duty to scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, on Crime and Disorder matters, engaging with the Community Safety Partnership Board.

Welsh Government legislation introduced in April 2021 has led to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal becoming the South-East Wales Corporate Joint Committee. The body has powers to aid regional economic wellbeing and is responsible for regional transport and strategic development plans. A joint scrutiny committee representing 10 local authorities will hold to account its decisions and link with the Council's Economy & Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committees to oversee progress.

Each Scrutiny Committee is made up of 9 elected Members. However the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee additionally has four co-opted members comprising two parent governor representatives, a Roman Catholic representative and a Church-in-Wales representative. Both the Economy and Culture and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committees offer a seat to a representative of the Cardiff Youth Council, enabling young voices to challenge decision-making.



## Hearing from you...

Scrutiny Committee members are keen to hear the opinions and concerns of those who live or work in Cardiff. Hearing from residents, workers and employers helps to inform scrutiny and improve outcomes, ensuring that the Council and its partners deliver the right policies and services to benefit Cardiff's citizens. We do this by:

- Having 'Contact Us' forms on the Council's Scrutiny webpages, so you can share your views and experiences and suggest a topic for future scrutiny, available [here](#)
- Seeking to understand the views and experiences of customers, service users and carers, using workshops, focus groups and survey results to gather feedback.
- Inviting partners, representatives, and external experts to contribute evidence to broaden our understanding and inform our discussions.
- Having an independent, dedicated research service to collect robust stakeholder and/ or document-based evidence to inform our work.
- Having co-optees on our Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee, representing parent governors, Catholic Dioceses, Church in Wales, and Cardiff Youth Council co-optees on this Committee and the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee.
- Questioning decision makers, managers, and experts.
- Ensuring transparency, by webcasting our committee meetings – please use this [link](#) to access webcasts.

### Some examples of our work involving stakeholders in 2021/22 include:

- » Issuing a **Call for Evidence** to inform scrutiny of the Replacement Local Development Plan Strategic Growth and Delivery Options
- » Conducting a **Housing Condition Survey** for council tenants
- » **Stakeholders attending committee** to contribute to discussions on preventing serious violent crime in Cardiff, improving physical activity, sport and leisure services, the review of the Allotments Strategy, weed control pilots, the operation of the Cardiff Public Services Board, and improving Youth Justice Services.

Overall, in 2021/22, we received 53 verbal contributions and 17 written contributions from external contributors, in addition to 322 responses to our primary research. In the last year, we have worked with the following stakeholders:

- Adoption Collaborative
- Advanced Invasives Ltd.
- Allotment Strategy Review Group
- Alzheimer's Society
- Cardiff and Vale Public Health Team
- Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
- Cardiff Civic Society
- Cardiff Future Wellbeing Alliance
- Cardiff Metropolitan University
- Cardiff Public Services Board
- Cardiff Third Sector Council
- Cardiff University
- Centre for Justice Innovation
- Edge Analytics
- For Cardiff
- GLL - Greenwich Leisure Limited
- Hardisty Jones Associates
- Monmouthshire Council
- Natural Resources Wales
- Norwegian Church Cardiff Bay
- Planning and Environment Decisions Wales
- Planning Officers Society Wales
- Police & Crime Commissioner
- Probation
- Safer Wales
- South Wales Police
- Sport Cardiff
- Sport Wales
- UWHA
- Victim Support
- Violence Prevention Unit
- Wales Extremism and Counter Terrorism Unit
- Youth Justice Service



## How you can get involved..

We have improved the Scrutiny webpages to make it easier for residents, workers, and employers to contribute to scrutiny. There is a 'Get Involved' page, so that people who live or work in Cardiff can share their views and experiences on the topics being scrutinised, and can also suggest a topic for future scrutiny, by using online 'Contact Us' forms.

There are also pages for each scrutiny committee, which show what topics the Scrutiny Committees are examining - [Scrutiny Committee page](#).

You can also get involved by:

- Contributing to our consultations, surveys, workshops and/ or focus groups
- Being invited to be a co-opted member of a Scrutiny Committee. In this role, you would work alongside elected Scrutiny Committee Members in supporting the development and review of Council policies.

**If you live or work in Cardiff, our Scrutiny Committee members want to hear from you. Your opinions will help to inform the topics under scrutiny and improve the Council's performance. Please use the forms available online at [Scrutiny Get Involved](#).**

## Five years of Scrutiny growth and development 2017-2022 – our achievements

With each new administration comes the excitement of new beginnings and fresh ambition. So it is for Cardiff's five Scrutiny Committees, and, as the term progresses, we seek validation that our output is reflective of the growing value of the challenge we provide to those in power. By the end of an administration there is much to report, and so it is with respect for the co-operation afforded by this administration that we proudly offer each scrutiny committee's notable achievements of the administration.

In 2017/18, the **Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee (CYP)** undertook an in-depth Inquiry into **Out of County Placements**. The Inquiry reviewed the provision of out of county placements for children looked after, publishing nineteen recommendations, with overarching themes of prevention, workforce, practice, and commissioning.

The review prompted a major shift in policy in bringing foster carers in-house, and the development of a kinship scheme to keep young people in-county and with family members where possible. There followed substantial investment in Children's Services, despite pressures on the overall Council budget, with £2.5m invested looked after children's placements for 2022/23 onwards; Significant improvements in the recruitment and retention of social workers; Changes in working practices and processes across Children's Services, with a quality assurance framework for case management teams; The development of the Falconwood Assessment Centre; The implementation of an Interventions Hub and Reviewing Hub; The introduction of a Family Drug & Alcohol Pilot which aims to keep families together ; and improvements in early help and family support services

We continue to closely monitor the development and implementation of improved services in relation to placements and will continue to act as critical friend to Cabinet in terms of providing more in-county provision; the development and implementation of the Right Homes, Right Support Strategy; and delivering Budget savings on placements of £2.6m in 2022/23.

In early 2020, HMIP published the findings of its inspection of the **Youth Justice Service** in Cardiff. Since July 2020, the Committee has received bi-monthly reports on progress across the Service; progress against the "All Our Futures" Strategy; progress of quality assurance work, including case audits; quarterly performance reports, including an overview of organisational health; case studies; and victim engagement feedback.

As a member of the Youth Justice Advocacy Panel, the Chair of the CYP Scrutiny Committee has an overview of the strategic direction of the YJS. The Committee also held an informal session with young people in the YJS to gauge their views on the Service.

The Committee has been recognised as an integral part of the improvements to the Service, including by the inspectors who stated "... We were also pleased to see oversight from local councillors, such as the chair of the scrutiny committee and the children's committee lead member." The Service has been 'de-escalated' from Stage 3 to Stage 1 by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales.

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Committee has closely monitored the **Recovery and Renewal of Children's Services, Education and Schools** in tackling the demands and challenges faced. Open and transparent discussions with Members, officers and partners acting as a "critical friend" tackled issues such as demands on the services; pressures; complexities of the challenges faced by the services; resource needs; re-engagement and well-being; youth service provision; and provision for vulnerable children and young people.

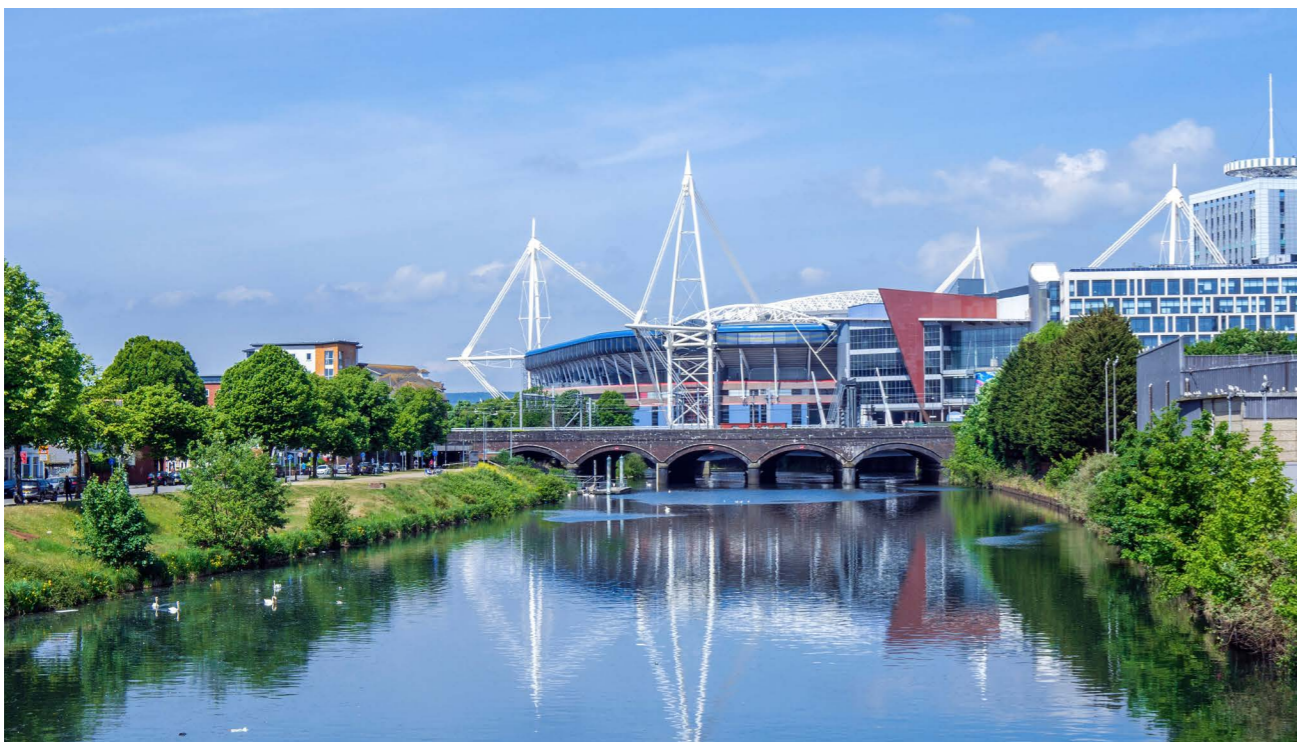


During the past 5 years, the **Community and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee (CASSC)** has considered over fifty-nine topics and made 126 formal recommendations to the Council's executive and external partners. With 85% of those recommendations either accepted or partially accepted and over 850 external voices informing our work.

We have acted as consultees and fed into a range of policies during their development stage, such as the Council's **Night-time Economy Strategy** and the upcoming Noise and Violence Prevention Strategies. As the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee we have

met, and worked with, senior community safety partnership leads, including the Police & Crime Commissioner, South Wales Chief Superintendent, front line police officers, PSOs, community safety charities and individuals with lived experiences. With have delved into and made recommendations on high-profile, significant topics such as the fear of crime in Cardiff, addressing drug-dealing in the city and preventing instances of serious violent crime.





Throughout the administration, we have actively monitored the progression of the **Council House New Build Programme**, investigating the progress made against targets, examined proposals relating to package deals, buy-back schemes, decarbonisation of council stock, and offered our feedback on the development of multi-million-pound sites. We have played a key role in the updating of the **Cardiff Design Standards** and have continued to emphasise the importance of delivering developments which generate long standing, positive impacts for both immediate and wider communities. We have reiterated the importance of the programme working beyond legal requirements, providing property developments that stimulate inspiration across the country and Members were pleased that this architectural legacy was a key objective within the Council's final Design Standards document.

Throughout this Administration, the **Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee** has focused on testing whether proposals for economic development meet the needs of all our citizens and are compatible with our commitment to sustainable development and the need to tackle the Climate Change emergency. We have recommended improvements to the public realm and open space, urged carbon neutral developments, and encouraged enhanced accessibility. Examples where our views have been taken on board include **public pocket parks** in the Dumballs Road site, a **wide water's edge margin** around the International Sports Village, **involving access and community groups** in the design of the new Indoor Arena footbridge, and an **independent assessment** of the Indoor Arena's carbon footprint.

The Committee has also worked to support service delivery across its remit, for example, supporting Cabinet in their discussions with Welsh Government re **Adult Community Learning** funding, and undertaking an Inquiry into the proposed changes to **community sport** funding. The Committee has monitored the delivery of sport and leisure services and sought feedback from service users of **Better Leisure Centres**, helping to increase client retention and satisfaction. The Committee has undertaken several inquiries, leading to recommendations to improve **events, culture, innovation and workshops premises, and parks**. A key focus of our work over this administration has been the **parks service**, particularly the need to invest in the park ranger services and the funding of parks; Members are delighted that there has been recent investment in this service, to boost the safety and enjoyment of park users as well as to tackle the climate and nature emergencies via their work to protect and promote biodiversity.

Throughout the administration, the **Environmental Scrutiny Committee** has considered a wide range of salient topics, ranging from, a review of the city's taxi services, development of the District Heat Network and proposals for additional burial space in Cardiff. In considering our topics we have made 125 formal recommendations, with 89% of those recommendations either accepted, or partially accepted and over 3,500 external voices contributing to our work.

During the past five years we have done extensive work on the Council's waste services. We have reviewed the introduction of the 'pink sticker' scheme, monitored the service areas move to a 4-day week and acted as a key consultee on the Council's **Recycling Strategy 2021-2025**. We have made numerous recommendations relevant to waste management such as methods to increase and strengthen consultation with ward members and put forward suggestions for better distribution of information to Cardiff residents

We have played a key part in reviewing the Council's work to improve **air quality in the city** and dedicated a comprehensive Task & Finish inquiry where we put forward thirty-four recommendations to the Council's executive. We have challenged, assessed, and monitored the Council's plans to become a **Carbon Neutral Council** and city by 2030 and, as part of that work, acted as a key consultee on the draft **One Planet Cardiff** strategy. Providing an opportunity for ten organisations to provide their observations on the proposals and inform our considerations.

Since 2017 Scrutiny has been central to improvements in corporate planning and performance oversight. During this administration, the **Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee** Performance Panel became the focus of progressive interaction between Cabinet and Scrutiny over the five years, introducing cross committee discussion on **Corporate Plan target setting** at a policy development stage. The work of the Panel, and its value, has grown year on year, securing valuable impact for all five scrutiny committees, and better-informed corporate planning for the Council.

In May 2020, the Committee published an inquiry on **Scrutiny Impact**, making recommendations for capturing the value of Scrutiny to the Council through monitoring the impact made

by our recommendations to Cabinet. We developed a practical model, collecting data and evidence of scrutiny activity that brings critical friend challenge with the customer at its core to the heart of the Council's decision-making.

The new model links to the Council's **Performance Framework** and has assisted the Council in responding to the self-assessment requirements of the new Local Government & Elections (Wales) Bill. It provides a framework and database for the quantitative assessment of scrutiny impact, to be captured and reported to Full Council annually. On the recommendation of Scrutiny, Cabinet now requires all Council services to self-assess the implementation of scrutiny recommendations, tracking and reporting on progress six monthly. The new tracking arrangements have become a fundamental part of the Council's new performance framework. In the words of the Chief Executive *it absolutely represents best practice*, and we aspire to share the model with other public bodies and local authorities.

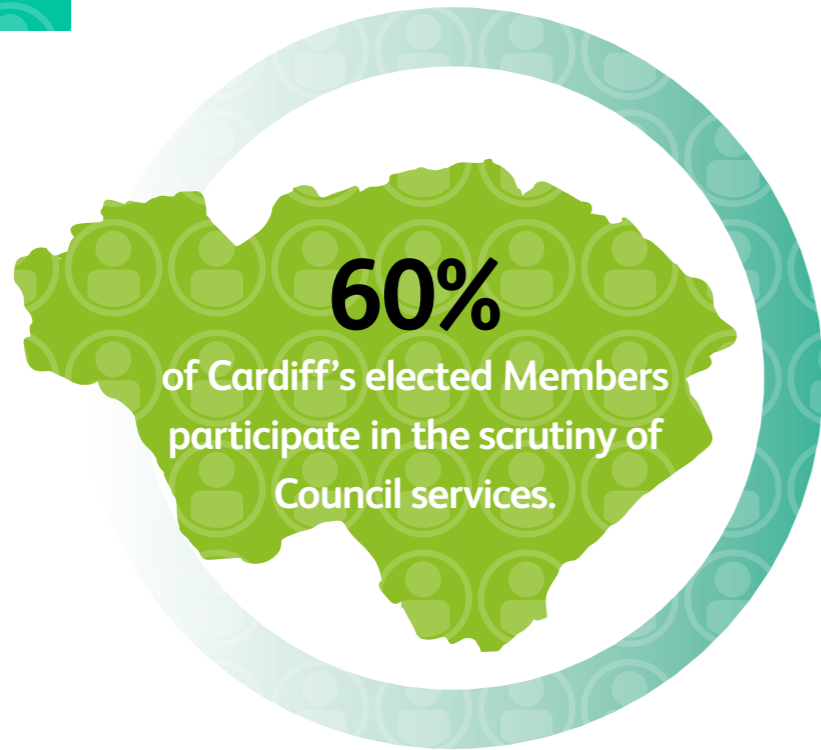
Early in the administration (May 2018) the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee published an inquiry report making recommendations for embedding a Council-wide customer culture and improvements in **Customer Leadership**. Scrutiny members identified opportunities for placing the customer at the heart of Council services, recommending a step change in customer service awareness, development of a customer focussed culture and training to encourage customer service excellence.

The Council responded with real commitment by developing a customer service strategy, and by 2019 we saw evidence of growing corporate support to move the Council's customer culture forwards.



# Scrutiny in Numbers

## 1 Activity



This year, Cardiff residents were represented by **75 elected councillors** across 29 wards. Of those councillors, **45 were nominated by their political parties to sit on 5 scrutiny committees**. Each scrutiny committee is politically balanced reflecting the balance of Full Council. Importantly, scrutiny is where councillors are encouraged to deliver critical friend challenge in a non-political arena.

**75** elected councillors

**45** cross party elected members involved in 5 scrutiny committees that provide critical friend challenge to the Cabinet

**51** scrutiny committees held

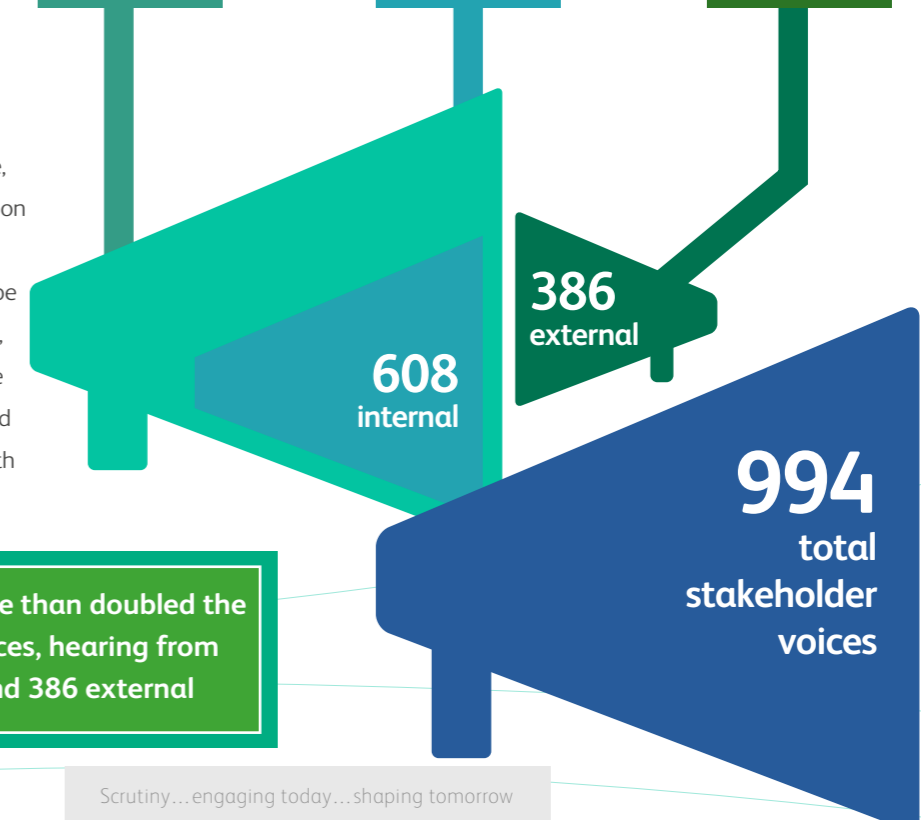
**111**  
This year, following substantive scrutiny the 5 committees delivered 111 letters to the Cabinet making recommendations for improvement.

## 2 Participation

### Number of Internal and External Contributors to Scrutiny

	Council Officers	Cabinet Members	External Contributors
Committee Meeting	364	156	339
	+	+	+
Performance Panel	18	6	-
	+	+	+
Task and Finish	22	3	42
	+	+	+
Other Meetings	37	2	5
	+	+	+
	<b>441</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>386</b>

Scrutiny is a route into the decision-making cycle for many external stakeholders. We pride ourselves on asking questions of the right people, those that have a stake in the decision to be taken or the policy under review. Internally stakeholders can be cabinet members, senior managers, and council officers. Importantly we seek evidence from service users and external organisations or groups with a stake in the issue being discussed.



This year Scrutiny has more than doubled the number of stakeholder voices, hearing from 994 voices, 608 internal and 386 external



## Webcasting Views of Scrutiny Committees

Cardiff Council's commitment to allowing stakeholders full insight into its decision-making continues to grow. In 2021/22 we increased the number of meetings webcast and available for public viewing by 54%. **There were significant increases in our viewing figures and the average viewing time increased by 38% on last year.** You can find all publicly broadcast scrutiny committees on the Council's website by [clicking here](#).

**This year the number of Scrutiny viewings increased by over 40%**



**38% increase in viewing time**

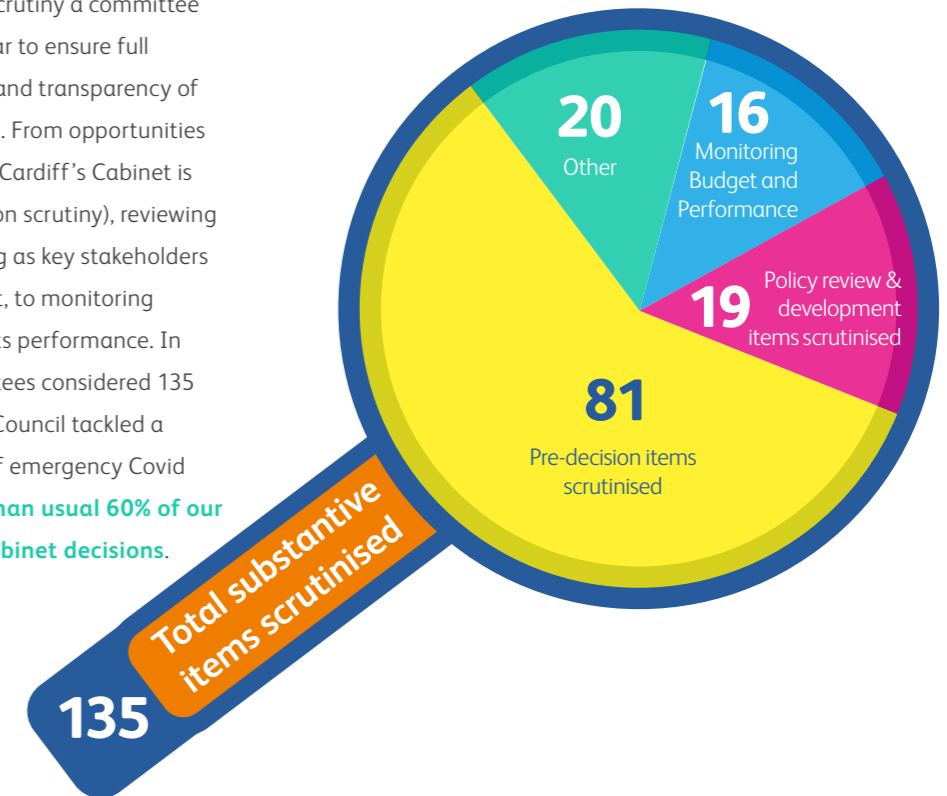
**51 Scrutiny Meetings webcast**



## 3 Output

### Scale and variety of items scrutinised

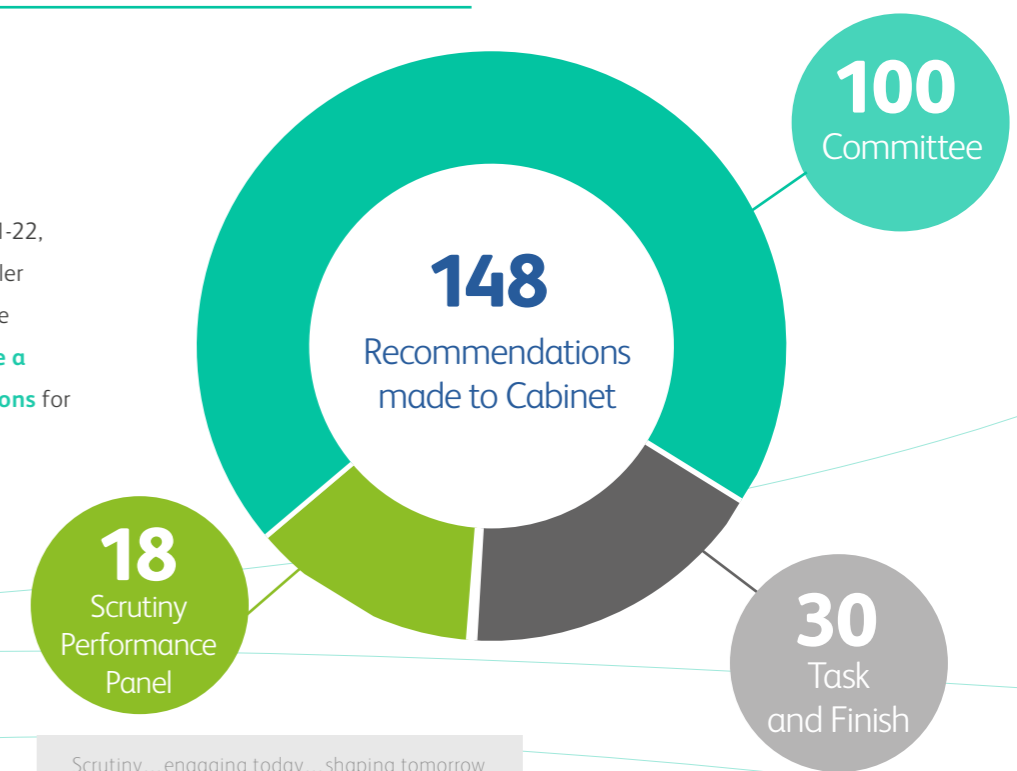
There are many types of scrutiny a committee will undertake over the year to ensure full accountability, openness, and transparency of governance arrangements. From opportunities to examine decisions that Cardiff's Cabinet is about to make (pre-decision scrutiny), reviewing existing policies and acting as key stakeholders in new policy development, to monitoring the council's budget and its performance. In 2021/22 Scrutiny Committees considered 135 substantive items. As the Council tackled a successful transition out of emergency Covid arrangements, **a higher than usual 60% of our work was scrutinising Cabinet decisions.**



### Scrutiny Recommendations

#### Scrutiny is all about improvement!

So, following our work in 2021-22, whether full committee, smaller task group or cross-committee performance panel, **we made a total of 148 recommendations** for improvement to the Cabinet.

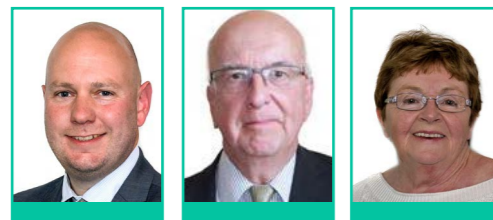


# Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee

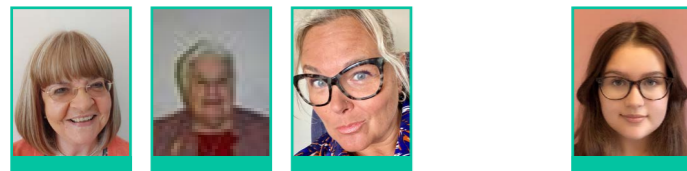
## Our Membership



Councillor Lee Bridgeman (Chair)



Councillors Stephen Cunnah; Robert Hopkins; Heather Joyce;  
Sian-Elin Melbourne; Bablin Molik; Mike Phillips;  
Mia Rees; Kanaya Singh



Co-optees: Patricia Arlotte (Roman Catholic representative);  
Carol Colbert (Church in Wales Rep); Karen Dell'Armi (Parent  
Governor Rep); parent governor vacancy (Parent Governor  
Rep); Mia John (Cardiff Youth Council Rep)

## Our Purpose

- We work to improve the Council's services and policies in the area of children and young people, which includes Schools; Children's Social Services; Youth Services and Justice; and relevant support services (Education and Schools support services etc.)
- We monitor the effectiveness of who the Council works with in this area, including how resources are spent;
- We ensure that key Council Policies in this area such as Cardiff 2030 Vision for Education & Learning; 21st Century Schools Programme; Social Care Commissioning Strategy; and Corporate Parenting Strategy are developed and put in place; and
- We make recommendations to the Council's decision-makers to enhance performance and service delivery.

## Our Achievements

- **Youth Justice Service** - the Committee continued to monitor progress in relation to the Youth Justice Service, following the inspection of the service in 2020. The Chair of this Committee sits on the Youth Justice Advocacy Panel so has an overview of the strategic direction of the YJS. In addition, during 2021 the Committee received bi-monthly reports on progress relating to staff and capacity; partnership learning and work; "All Our Futures" Strategy; progress of quality assurance work, including case audits; quarterly performance reports, including an overview of organisational health; case studies; and victim engagement feedback. The Committee also held an informal session with young people in the YJS to gauge their views on the Service. The Committee will continue to be an integral part of monitoring and reviewing improvements to the Service, and more importantly, improving outcomes for young people within the Service. The Service has been 'de-escalated' from Stage 3 to Stage 1 by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales; and will be subject to a further inspection in March 2022.

- **Children's Services** – during 2021, the Committee monitored demands and challenges faced by Children's Services as part of its **recovery and renewal** work, arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. The Committee held a number of open and transparent discussions with Members, officers and partners and acted as a "critical friend" and support for the Service in relation to demands on the service; pressures; complexities of the challenges faced by the Service; resource needs; shifting the balance of care; remodelling of services; and during 2022, Members of the Committee will work with the Service in the development and implementation of a 3-year Children's Services Strategy.
- **21st Century Schools Programme** – the Committee continued to undertake a range of policy development and pre-decision scrutiny in relation to the 21st Century Schools Programme, including progress in relation to Band B Schools. They made a number of observations in relation to developments in Cathays High School; Pentyrch Primary School; Willows High School; ALN Provision; Admission Arrangements; and the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP). The Committee will continue to challenge the Service to ensure the future proofing for schools in Cardiff.

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The children and young people's scrutiny committee provides strong and timely scrutiny on a number of relevant issues facing education in the local authority, including sensitive school organisation proposals and a range of school support services..... The scrutiny committee follow up areas of focus in their work programme and write to the cabinet member to express their observations with suitably challenging recommendations.”

### Estyn – inspection of Cardiff Education Services – November 2021

“I would like to ... express my thanks for the support and scrutiny the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee which most certainly has played a key role in the sustained improvement in the quality and effectiveness of its education services since the last full inspection in 2011. The Estyn report itself acknowledges the strong and timely scrutiny provided by the Committee on relevant issues facing education in Cardiff.”

### Councillor Sarah Merry, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Skills - March 2022

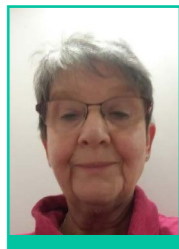


# Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

## Our Membership



Councillor Shaun Jenkins (Chair)



Councillors Ali Ahmed; Joe Carter; Andrea Gibson;  
Ashley Lister; Philippa Hill-John; Sue Lent;  
Norma Mackie and Mary McGary.

## Our Purpose

- The Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee works to improve the Council's services and policies in the areas of community and adult services. This includes matters which relate to housing, neighbourhood renewal, community safety, mental health, community services and adult social care.
- The Committee also serves as the Council's Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, reviewing actions taken by the Community Safety Partnership to address local issues of crime and disorder.
- We monitor the effectiveness of who the Council works with, its performance levels, how resources are spent, the effectiveness of measures in place and look to identify possible areas for improvement.

## Our Achievements during 2021-22

- During the year, we were keen to examine the impact of serious violent crime, and the work being done to prevent it from happening in the city. As a committee, we are acutely aware that serious violent crime can have a devastating, wide-ranging impact on individuals and the wider community, and so, we have strived to ensure responsible bodies consistently work with a strict, unyielding focus, on preventing and reducing instances of violent crime. We undertook in-depth scrutiny on how the local Community Safety Partnership is working to address and prevent such instances arising in Cardiff, engaging with a range of key witnesses such as the **South Wales Police & Crime Commissioner, South Wales Police Chief Superintendent, senior police officers, the Violence Prevention Unit, Safer Wales and Victim Support**. As part of this work, we were able to contribute to the upcoming Violence Prevention Strategy and put forward a number of recommendations including, more police patrols in the city, a streamlined process to ensure regular and direct communication between the police and elected members and robust support to prevent family breakdowns.

- We have also examined the **noise complaint process which derive from private, domestic settings** and contributed to the development of the Council's upcoming, 'Noise Policy'. As part of this work, we explored the efficiency of the current system, along with the public's awareness and access to the service. We felt it was essential that the service has insight into the current service standards and satisfaction rates of those who have used the service, and so we recommended a survey with complainants be prioritised and implemented as soon as possible.
- Throughout the year, we have assessed how services supporting adults with care and support needs have responded to the pandemic along with their plans for recovery. We have strived to ensure that the **long-term health and well-being** impacts of Covid-19 on Cardiff's adult population are adequately recognised and resourced and contributed to the development of the Council's Ageing Well Strategy.
- We have continued to monitor the Council's target to **deliver 1,000 new Council homes by December 2022** and have been involved in influencing the update of the Council's Design Standards document. Helping to ensure that each property developed by the Council, is of a high quality and adds a real, and lasting, positive impact for future occupiers and communities.
- Cardiff Council's housing service manages over 13,000 council homes and we wanted to explore the **efficiency of the Council house repair and maintenance service**. To assess how the Council manages the quality of its existing stock, and provides its tenants with safe, high-quality housing. To inform this work, and as part of our ongoing commitment to represent the views of residents, we contacted over 6,000 council tenants by post and 4,000 tenants by email, requesting they complete a survey, conducted by the Scrutiny Research Team, to provide us with critical insight into the service and inform our considerations.

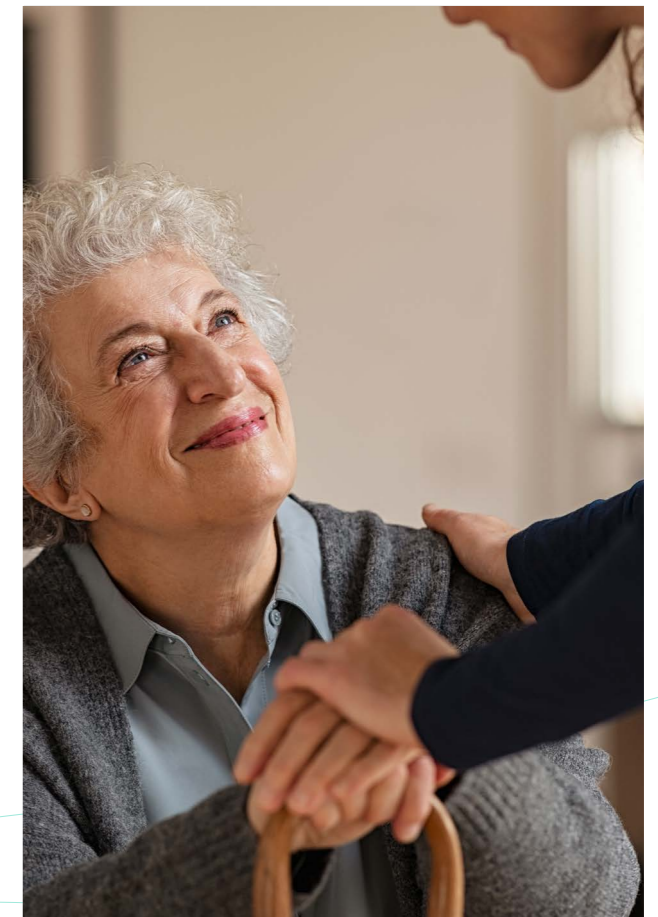
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[In reference to a meeting dedicated to preventing serious violent crime in Cardiff] “This has been a particularly good session which has brought out the complexities of the issue, and I thank you for probing it in the way that you have”

**Police & Crime Commissioner, Alun Michael & Cllr Lynda Thorne, Co-Chairs of the Community Safety Leadership Board**

“Thank you for inviting us to be part of the meeting [Serious Violent Crime] .... We look forward to being able to help in the future, and reading any feedback / comments”

**South Wales, Victim Support**



# Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee

## Our Membership



Councillor Nigel Howells (Chair)



Councillors Jane Henshaw; Iona Gordon; Gavin Hill-John;  
Chris Lay; Thomas Parkhill; Adrian Robson;  
Abdul Sattar; Ed Stubbs.



Youth Council  
Representative –  
Eshaan Rajesh

## Our Purpose

- The Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee drives improvement across economic development, regeneration, parks, leisure, sports, libraries, hubs, culture, events, and tourism.
- We hold to account those in charge, to make sure decisions are transparent and right for Cardiff.
- We listen to people who live and work in Cardiff, using their views and experiences to inform our scrutiny to help ensure the Council and partners deliver the right services for citizens.
- We make recommendations to enhance the use of resources, performance, and service delivery.

## Our Achievements

- **Community Sport in Cardiff** – Members carried out an Inquiry focusing on Regional Sport Partnership proposals. Members heard from Sport Wales, Cardiff Metropolitan University and Sport Cardiff, as well as Cardiff Council’s Cabinet Member and officers. The final report was presented to Cabinet in February 2022. Members recommended maintaining our current Joint Venture with Cardiff Metropolitan University, which boosts engagement and participation in community sport for our most disadvantaged residents. However, if maintaining the status quo proves impossible, due to funding changes, Members recommended reducing the footprint of the Regional Sports Partnership, clarifying governance arrangements, and productive engagement with politicians, to ensure the partnership meets the needs of Cardiff’s communities. The Cabinet response to the recommendations is awaited.
- **Regeneration and Recovery** – this Committee considered a significant number of reports to Cabinet on high-profile regeneration projects, including the International Sports Village, proposed Velodrome, Atlantic Wharf, Indoor Arena, James Street Regeneration and Cardiff Bay regeneration. Many of these reports contained confidential information and our comments on this is likewise confidential. However,

we can report that Members recommended liaison with the Access Forum to ensure accessibility issues are considered and addressed from the start of the Atlantic Wharf footbridge design process; this recommendation was accepted and expanded to include local community groups. Committee Members also scrutinised reports to Cabinet on the Council’s response to the pandemic, including the City Recovery and Renewal Strategy and Action Plan and Castle Street proposals, focusing on how these proposals will assist businesses, workers, and residents of Cardiff.

- **Service Delivery** – Committee Members scrutinised reports to Cabinet on changes to services for Into Work and Adult Community Learning, community engagement and safety in parks, the delivery of leisure services via GLL, the Old Library and the Norwegian Church. Members recommended exploring the possibility of increasing the Into Work Finder’s Fee to the market level; this recommendation was accepted. Members encouraged the use of eco-friendly, low-tech, and sustainable lighting for parks, where this was needed and in line with promoting biodiversity, which was welcomed by the Cabinet Member. Members also recommended using the Council’s social media channels to encourage use of GLL leisure centres, including providing information about how to access these via public transport; this recommendation was accepted.
- **Strategy & Bid Development** – Committee Members scrutinised the draft Physical Activity & Sport Strategy and Allotments Strategy as well as exploring progress in implementing the Music Strategy. Members scrutinised the bids for UK Government funding for levelling-up and received a report on one of the specific projects to use this funding, the proposed Ely Youth Zone.
- **Corporate Issues** - Committee Members have scrutinised corporate issues, such as the Corporate Plan, Budgetary Proposals and the first stages of the replacement Local Development Plan. Committee Members have been briefed on budget and performance monitoring reports and did not identify any areas of concern.



“As ever, your consideration of the matter is very much appreciated”

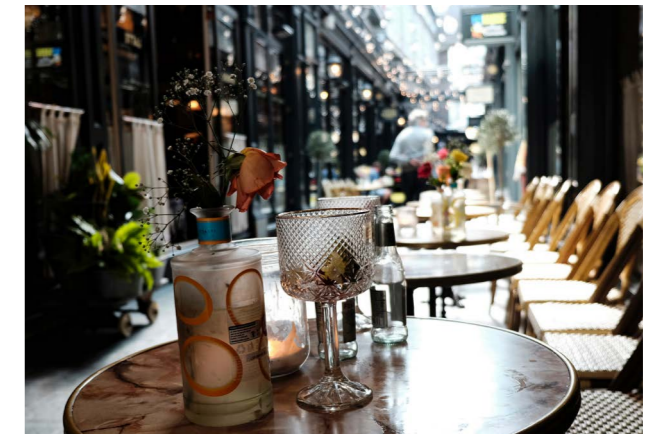
**ClIr Thomas – Levelling-Up**

“I thank Members for their considered reflections on the proposed schemes.”

**ClIr Goodway – James Street Regeneration**

“The Committee raised some very important points concerning the installation of lighting... I can advise that the use of low tech, sustainable lighting options will be considered and, furthermore an environmental appraisal undertaken.”

**ClIr Bradbury – Parks Safety**

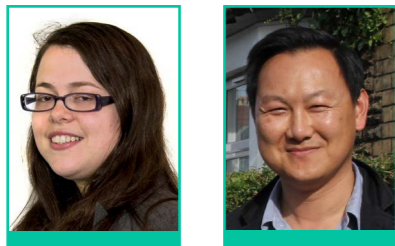
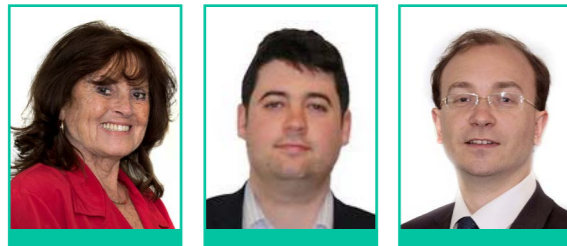


# Environmental Scrutiny Committee

## Our Membership



Councillor Ramesh Patel (Chair)



Councillors Bob Derbyshire; Owen Jones; John Lancaster; Jacqueline Parry; Thomas Parkhill; Oliver Owen; Emma Sandrey; Peter Wong.

## Our Purpose

- The Environmental Scrutiny Committee works to improve the Council's services and policies in the area of environmental sustainability, which includes Waste Management, Planning, Environmental Health and Transportation;
- We monitor the effectiveness of who the Council works with in this area, including how resources are spent;
- We ensure that key Council Policies in this area such as One Planet Cardiff, Clean Air Strategy, Recycling Services Strategy, Green Infrastructure Plan and Local Development Plan are developed and put in place; and
- We make recommendations to the Council's decision-makers to enhance performance and service delivery.

## Our Achievements

- **Replacement Local Development Plan** – during the year, the Committee led an in-depth inquiry into the Council's Replacement Local Development Plan Strategic Options, with the Inquiry membership benefiting from cross-representation from all of the Council's Scrutiny Committees. A primary focus for this inquiry was to explore and scrutinise the Strategic and Delivery Options for the Plan, with a strict focus on accessibility, inclusivity, and environmental sustainability in future development. As part of this work, we commissioned a Call-for-Evidence seeking the views of key witnesses on the suitability and robustness of the Council's approach in consulting the public and stakeholders. In addition, we also sought their views on the scope and subject of the Plan's Strategic and Delivery Options. The Inquiry received **18** responses from the Call-for-Evidence and verbal evidence from 5 stakeholders including **Cardiff Third Sector Council, the Alzheimers Society and Natural Resources Wales**. As a result of the inquiry, **12** formal recommendations on the corporate consultation approach have been agreed for Cabinet consideration, as well as a series of key findings for advised incorporation in the development of the Preferred Strategy.

- **One Planet Cardiff** – throughout the year, the Committee has contributed towards the **development of the final One Planet Cardiff Strategy**, which is the Council's strategic response to the declared Climate Emergency. Within our considerations, we recommended that targets, key indicators, and timescales be incorporated into the One Planet Cardiff Action Plan to ensure effective monitoring of the strategy's performance.
- **Air Quality** – we have continued to voice our concern over air quality in Cardiff and have **closely monitored the Council's progress in achieving its Carbon Neutral target by 2030**. As part of our work, we put forward a number of recommendations to the Council's Executive, including, air quality monitors being placed outside identified Traffic Regulation Order Zones surrounding schools, so the Council can assess if there is a reduction in parents using cars to take children to schools, or whether the problem has simply been relocated.
- **Waste Management Service** – we have continued to **examine how Waste and Recycling Services are delivered in Cardiff** by closely monitoring the Council's move to a 4-day residential waste collection cycle and stressed the need for improvements in missed collections and assisted lifts. In addition, we have also contributed towards the design of the Council's Waste Strategy, including the need to ensure more efforts are made to engage with hard-to-reach communities and for recycling in schools to be incorporated into the strategy.
- **Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) Inquiry** – the Committee heard from planning experts, Cardiff Civic Society, Cardiff Future Wellbeing Alliance, and the Chief and Deputy Chief Planning Inspectors for Wales, and examined good practice in England and Wales, in order to understand how and when to use SPGs effectively. The Inquiry is finalising its recommendations and is due to report to Cabinet by July 2022.

“

It is really good to see the Cardiff councillors looking to engage with people living with and affected by dementia through us, at the first stage as part of the replacement LDP process”

**Policy Officer for Alzheimer's Society Cymru.**

“Thank you for the opportunity to attend today, and to recognise the importance of the RLDP in terms of setting the aspirations for the city and setting out how it can create all kinds of positive developments across the city.”

**Chief Executive Officer, Cardiff Third Sector Council**

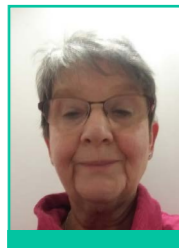


# Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee

## Our Membership



Councillor David Walker (Chair)



Councillors Ali Ahmed, Rodney Berman;  
Bernie Bowen-Thompson, Jayne Cowan, Elizabeth Henshaw,  
Ashley Lister, Norma Mackie and Joel Williams.

## Our Purpose

- We assist the Council in creating solid foundations to deliver services successfully. With the customer in mind, we act as a critical friend, challenging the back-office support services on which frontline services depend, seeking assurance that the Council is using its finances, property, digital and staff resources to deliver the best possible services.
- Our aim is to maximise customer experience by scrutinising policies, plans and programmes. We are looking for good performance against the priorities and objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.
- We report our findings to the Cabinet by making recommendations we consider would enhance Council performance and the effectiveness of its policies.

## Our Achievements

- Our **Performance Panel** continued to combine the expertise of all five scrutiny committees to secure an impact on the Council's Corporate Planning and Performance Management processes. The Panel met with the Cabinet to consider the year- end performance 2020/21 (July 2021); to consider mid-year performance 2021/22 (December 2021) and finally to consider the Corporate Plan at a policy development stage (February 2022). These three meetings resulted in amendments to the Corporate Plan 2022/25.
- We have focussed heavily on the **Financial Resilience** of the Council, considering the Council's strategy for dealing with the financial challenges ahead, the proposals for the 2022/23 budget and monitoring the budget at months 4 and 6 2021/22.

- We reviewed the organisation's performance and response to the demands of the pandemic in maintaining frontline services with scrutiny of Cabinet reports on **Recovery and Renewal** in May and October 2021. Members were looking for evidence that more agile decision making will be maintained, and that the Council becomes more innovative as it looks to establish flexibility between home and office hybrid working.
- In support of the move towards hybrid working we have published our **Home & Agile Working Review** to inform future policy on hybrid working in the Council, with a specific focus on the management challenges of supporting home & agile working.
- This year we returned to our statutory responsibility of scrutinising the **Cardiff Public Services Board**, commending the high level of trust and spirit of co-operation that had resulted in agility in the speed of decision-making at the onset of the pandemic.
- We continued to engage with the Council's **Race Equality Taskforce**, monitoring the Council's progress on issues such as workforce representativeness, and translating the educational success of BAME communities into employment.
- We examined the challenges faced by the **Governance and Legal Services** directorate and returned to our long-held interest in corporate wide **Sickness Absence**, focussing closely on the specific challenges faced by Waste Management.

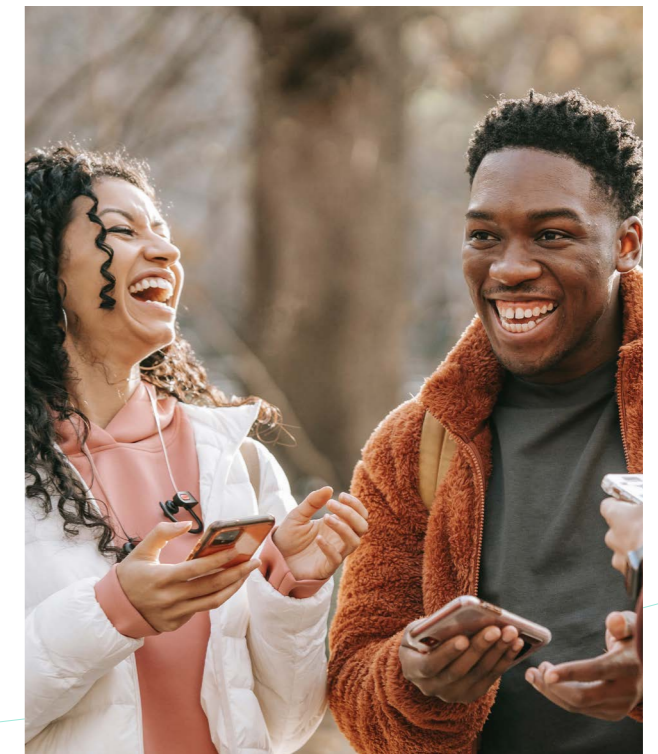
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“This has been a good 5 years for the relationship between Cabinet and Scrutiny, particularly with this Committee. I am personally very grateful for the constructive way you (the Chair) have led these meetings and the real value that has emerged”

**Cllr Huw Thomas, Council Leader**

“I echo the Leaders view. The Corporate Plan is an important document in a strong policy planning framework. The Performance Panel absolutely represents best practise in self-assessment. It provides a level of challenge that ensures that the Corporate Plan is addressing the right issues with the right measures and targets.”

**Paul Orders, Chief Executive**



## Looking ahead ...

Scrutiny Committees are responsible for setting their own work programmes each year. We use a variety of recognised approaches to examine the topics we agree for our work programme. Approaches such as task and finish inquiries, monitoring performance, policy development and scrutiny of statutory partnerships, progress briefings and updates populate a typical scrutiny agenda each month. We adopt an approach that is right for the topic in question and within a timescale that will make a difference. We often join with other scrutiny committees where a broader scrutiny perspective would produce a better outcome.

Now is the time we start developing our work programmes and already ideas are forming. See below for priorities on our radar so far. This is a good time to get in touch if you have an issue you think scrutiny would be interested in.

Simply e-mail us at [ScrutinyViewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:ScrutinyViewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk)

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## Scrutiny Priorities 2022/23

### Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

Continuing to monitor the progress, and quality, of Cardiff Council's **new council houses**.

Assessing how the Council is working to keep communities safe and tackle **anti-social behaviour**.

Ensuring the **long-term well-being impacts of Covid-19**, are adequately recognised and resourced.

Examining the performance of the **Council's Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022-2026**. Concentrating on the effectiveness of the rapid rehousing approach, how homelessness in the city is being prevented and how the underlying causes of repeated homelessness are being addressed.

Continuing to monitor **Adult Services performance, capacity, and demand for services**.

Ensuring a sufficient framework is in place to allow Cardiff residents to **age well** and **remain healthy**.

Engaging with the service area on the **development of effective, technology enabled care**.

Focusing on effective working relations with the **Cardiff & Vale Regional Partnership Board, Regional Safeguarding Board**, and local **Community Safety Partnership**, to ensure effective governance and accountability.

### Children & Young Persons Scrutiny Committee

Continuing to monitor the **Youth Justice Service** and **Children Looked After**

Focussing on **Schools Organisation Planning**, 21st Century Schools proposals, the development of Band C schools and a Catchment Area Review

Recommending an Inquiry into young people who are in **Education other than at School (EOTAS)**, and examine what factors could lead to them becoming vulnerable to criminal exploitation be undertaken

Monitoring **Children's Services**, particularly capacity, performance, and demand for services

Prioritising **Mental Health and Well-being** across Services and beyond

Ensuring Cardiff is a **Child Friendly City**, and obtains this status during 2022/23

### Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee

Ensuring transparency and visibility by testing proposals to regenerate **Cardiff Bay** – including *Indoor Arena, Red Dragon Centre, Atlantic Wharf, International Sports Village, Velodrome, Mermaid Quay, Graving Docks, Alexandra Head, Cardiff Bay Metro, Pierhead Transport Hub, and Lloyd George Avenue proposals*.

Scrutinising progress with implementation of the **City Centre Recovery Action Plan**

Reviewing any proposed permanent scheme for **Castle Street** – its impact on businesses, in the city centre and nearby, tourism, events, climate emergency and equalities.

Reviewing proposed funding bids for **Levelling Up, Community Renewal and Shared Prosperity**.

Scrutinising progress with implementation of **Physical Activity and Sport Strategy**

Monitoring progress in **Parks** - with community engagement and safety tasks, and work to deliver the actions agreed by Full Council in the January 2021 'Let's make Cardiff Greener, Healthier, and Wilder' motion.

Scrutinising progress with implementation of **Allotments Strategy**.

Receiving progress updates on the **EUROS 2028** bid.

### Environment Scrutiny Committee

Monitor, assess and contribute to the Council's plans for becoming a **Carbon Neutral Council and city by 2030**.

Continuing to act as a key contributor towards the Council's **Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP)**. Ensuring a robust process is in place, and the consultation procedure is strengthened, **to enable local people to have their voices heard**, and to ensure the final plan is **fit for purpose**.

Examining the efficiency of the Council's waste services and how the Council achieves the **Welsh Government's statutory recycling target of 70%**.

Assessing how the Council is managing **Cardiff's biodiversity and natural environment** and ensure it is incorporated in considerations under wider pieces of work, such as One Planet Cardiff.

Closely monitoring the Council's **development of an electric vehicle infrastructure**, ensuring it is fit for purpose and sustainable for the future.

Reviewing and evaluating the city's Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) levels to assess the effectiveness of how the Council is **reducing air pollution in the city**.

Finalise the **Supplementary Planning Guidance Inquiry** and report its recommendations to Cabinet

### Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee

Oversight of the Council's **Recovery & Renewal Programme**, including management skills in leading **hybrid working** styles, **digital progress, customer focus**, corporate property strategy and **core office accommodation**.

Scrutinising the **Citizen Engagement Strategy** and engaging with the **Race Equality Taskforce** to ensure continuing progress in addressing inequalities.

Monitoring the embedding of the **Performance Management Framework** and its effectiveness in addressing performance challenges and supporting the delivery of corporate plan targets.

Monitoring **financial strategy**, proposals, and performance throughout the year.

Focussing on **procurement**, both the Councils strategic approach to growing its procurement customer base through partnership arrangements and the accessibility of tendering arrangements for Council contracts to small/local business contractors.

Statutory scrutiny of the work of the **Cardiff Public Service Board**.



This report is available in other languages.

Mae'r adroddiad hwn ar gael mewn ieithoedd eraill.

هذا التقرير متوفر بلغاتأخرى

এই রিপোর্টটি অন্যান্য ভাষাতেও পাওয়া যায়

यह रिपोर्ट अन्य भाषाओं में उपलब्ध है

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