

ANNUAL SCRUTINY REVIEW – 2018/19 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Report submitted & written by: Cllr Peter Jones, Chair of the Cleaner Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee (2018/19)
Cllr Jason O’Connell, Chair of the Healthier Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee (2018/19)
Cllr Jessica Powell, Chair of the Learning Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee (2018/19)
Cllr Stuart Ashley, Chair of the Cross Cutting Resources & Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee (2018/19)
Cllr Elizabeth Haynes, Chair of the Safer Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee (2018/19)

1. Area Affected

1.1 County Borough Wide.

2. Purpose of Report

2.1 To present Council with the Annual Scrutiny Review for the 2018/19 municipal year.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Council notes the content of the 2018/19 Annual Scrutiny Review.

4. Background

4.1 As members are aware, the overview and scrutiny process was introduced by the Local Government Act 2000. The Act came into force in response to the “modernising local government” agenda aimed at ensuring decision-making was more visible for local people, giving greater accountability for the decisions made.

4.2 Since that time, Torfaen has been operating a Leader and Cabinet (Executive) system with the decision making of the Council vested in the hands of the Cabinet. Whilst the Council’s overview and scrutiny committees cannot make decisions on behalf of the Council, they do play a vital role in ensuring that those that do so are making robust decisions in the right way and are fully appreciative of broader opinion.

5. The 2018/19 Annual Review

5.1 It is recommended good practice that all Councils publish a summary of its overview and scrutiny function each year to actively promote the role and value of the scrutiny function to both internal and external stakeholders.

5.2 A review of the scrutiny activity undertaken during the 2018/19 municipal year has therefore been prepared and is attached as appendix one to this report.

5.3 This review highlights the extensive work undertaken by each of the Council’s five

overview and scrutiny committees, together with the scrutiny activity completed during the PSB committee.

5.4 It sets out the recent developments in the Council's overview and scrutiny function, and details the progress made over the last year to strengthen its performance.

5.6 The report also underlines proposals to develop the overview and scrutiny function within Torfaen during the year ahead, enabling improved independent and impartial checks and measures to be undertaken by scrutiny to the benefit of both the Council and the public.

6. Recommendation

6.1 That Council notes the content of the 2018/19 Annual Scrutiny Review.

Appendices	Appendix 1 – Annual Scrutiny Review for the 2018/19 Municipal year
-------------------	--

Background Papers	Note: Members of the public are entitled, under the Local Government Act 1972, to inspect background papers to reports. The following is a list of the background papers used in the production of this report. None
--------------------------	--

For a copy of the background papers or for further information about this report, please telephone:

Tom Roberts, Senior Corporate Improvement & Scrutiny Officer 01495 766298