

GWYNEDD COUNCIL



Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council

Date of meeting:	8 July 2021
Title of Item:	Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-21
Member:	Councillor Beth Lawton, Chair of the Scrutiny Forum
Contact Officer:	Geraint Owen, Head of Democratic Services (Head of Corporate Support Department)

THE DECISION SOUGHT

To accept the report.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

1. In accordance with the constitution, a report is submitted to a meeting of the Full Council elaborating on the scrutiny work carried out during the year.
2. This is the first full year of implementing our current scrutiny arrangements following the scrutiny review. Inevitably, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to adapt with scrutiny activities being held on a virtual basis.
3. The report, which provides an overview of the scrutiny work undertaken during 2020-21, is shared under these headings:
 - Scrutiny Forum
 - Scrutiny Items
 - Call-in
 - Scrutiny Investigations
 - Parking Task Group
 - The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
 - Cabinet Members Sessions
 - Facts about Scrutiny in Gwynedd in 2020/21
4. With an increasing emphasis placed on assessing the impact of scrutiny work, focus was placed on scrutiny items that added value through the scrutiny work.
5. At the Full Council meeting on 3 December 2020, the Council adopted a notice of motion submitted by Councillor Paul Rowlinson in relation to the control of firework displays. One clause of the adopted notice was to request the Communities Scrutiny Committee give consideration within its work programme to review what steps the Council could take to promote or encourage:

- That all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries should be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.
- A public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.
- Local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'low-noise' fireworks for public displays.
- People to limit the use of fireworks to a period close to specific dates.

Consideration was given to the matter at the meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 22 April 2021, the relevant information can be viewed on page 10 of the annual report.

6. A list of all items scrutinised at formal meetings during the year has been included as an appendix to the annual report.
7. A concise version of the report has been produced with the intention to present 2020-21 scrutiny work in a succinct and easy to read format.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 - Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-21

Appendix 2 - Concise Version

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

THE STATUTORY OFFICERS' OBSERVATIONS

Monitoring Officer:

The report underlines the wide ranging work carried out by the scrutiny committees.

Statutory Finance Officer:

I appreciate the intelligent scrutiny input from Gwynedd Council's conscientious members, especially the constructive forward scrutiny aspects such as the Audit and Governance Committee's activity with a focus on risk in the 2021/22 Budget cycle. Otherwise, I note that this summary report is presented for information, so I have nothing to add from a financial propriety perspective.