



Scrutiny Annual Report 2024/25

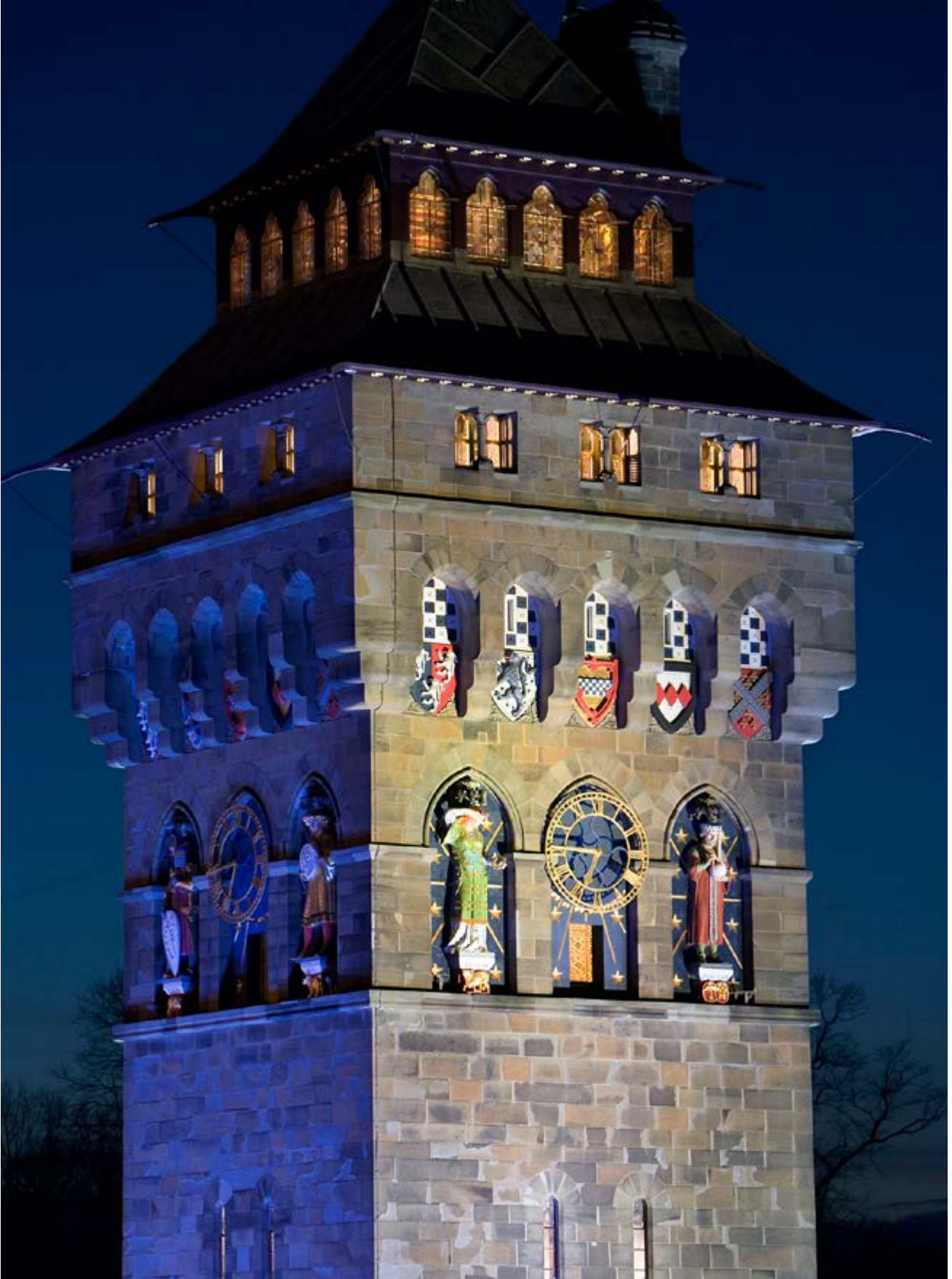
Scrutiny ... engaging today ... shaping tomorrow



STRONGER
FAIRER
GREENER



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Cardiff Council's Scrutiny Annual Report 2024/25

Scrutiny is an essential part of local democracy. Its main job is to make sure Cardiff Council's decisions are accountable, open, and transparent. By getting more voices involved and ensuring a wide range of appropriate evidence is considered, Scrutiny can help the Council make better decisions that benefit everyone.

Scrutiny acts as a 'critical friend' to the Council, enabling the public and experts to have their say. This helps shape local policies, checks Council priorities, and improves services for Cardiff residents.

In Cardiff, there are five Scrutiny Committees made up of elected Councillors, Co-optees, and Youth Council reps. They often talk to the public and professionals to get different perspectives.

During 2024/25, Scrutiny has held formal and informal meetings, conducted in-depth investigations, gathered

evidence, and visited local services. This Annual Report highlights what Scrutiny achieved in 2024/25 and shows how it made positive changes for local people.

Scrutiny is a powerful voice in the Council, but we want to connect with more people who use Council services. We want to hear what's working well, and what needs improvement. So, please check out our webpages on the Council's website to see what we're working on and send your thoughts to scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk.



Scrutiny Chairs - Our Perspective

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Councillor Jess Moultrie, Chair, Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee

It has been an honour to step up to being Chair of this scrutiny committee this year, after serving as a member for two years. During my time as a member of the committee, I discovered the importance of good scrutiny of services, policies and practices to ensure that the Council continues to base its decisions on sound, evidence-based good practice.

The Committee has had a very busy year and has continued to focus on demand (and complexity of demand) on services within our terms of reference, as well as increasing budget pressures. Policies relating to additional learning needs (ALN) and eliminating profit from care have also impacted services and placed additional stresses on services, so the committee have been supporting service areas as required.

Coming into this role, my particular expertise in engagement with young people and interest in areas such as personal dignity and controlling/coercive relationships has given a fresh perspective on the work of the committee.

I would wish to thank all Members of the scrutiny committee for their support, expertise and generosity towards me during my first year as Chair. You are what makes this scrutiny as effective as it is and I'm so proud to work with you. I would also like to thank the scrutiny officer supporting this committee.

I would like to thank all the Cabinet Members, Officers and external witnesses that have given up their time to attend the scrutiny committee and continue to provide us with open and honest discussions on issues they are facing.

Finally, I would wish to thank my fellow scrutiny committee Chairs for their support and advice during this year and look forward to continuing championing scrutiny going forward.

Scrutiny Chairs - Our Perspective

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Councillor Bablin Molik, Chair, Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

In 2024-2025, I returned as Chair of the Community & Adults Services Scrutiny Committee and it has been a busy year. One area that I want to highlight is our commitment towards developing an Adult Services Equality Action Plan. The Committee has established a task and finish group to explore ethnic minority communities' access and experiences of adult social care services. We feel it is really important to build relationships with individuals and community groups within Cardiff, who can help us really understand their views and experiences. This will help ensure that the Adult Services Equality Plan builds on the suggestions made by our ethnically minoritised communities.

I also want to highlight our Committee's scrutiny of the proposals to increase council house rent and service charge. We want to ensure that our communities are able to afford adequate permanent accommodation, and reduce the risk of homelessness. Also, the Committee has taken steps to have a greater understanding of Housing Allocation Policy and the issues facing residents, to ensure that they are at the forefront of our scrutiny.

Scrutiny Chairs - Our Perspective

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Councillor Peter Wong, Chair, Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee

2024-25 has been a busy year for Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee Members. We have undertaken two in-depth inquiries, carried out six visits to see council services first-hand, and ensured that our committee meetings focused on exploring the impact of past and future decisions for residents, businesses, and visitors. I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the committee members for their unwavering commitment to strong scrutiny and to everyone who has contributed to our scrutiny this year – Cabinet Members, officers, members of the public, partner organizations, and businesses. Your views, experiences, and information have enabled the Committee to make evidence-based recommendations designed to drive improvement and make a difference to the residents we serve.

Ultimately, this is the purpose of scrutiny; while it is crucial that the process of scrutiny is inclusive and participative, helping to strengthen local democracy and inform our work, the output of scrutiny is key. We are here to act as a check and balance, to hold to account, and to improve council services. Our task group inquiries allow us to delve into specific issues, and the recommendations from our Filming in Cardiff Inquiry aim to bolster the Council's ability to attract more filming projects while managing the associated costs. Our Visitor Levy & Regulation Inquiry is ongoing and seeks to learn lessons from other local authorities about how to successfully introduce a levy.

Our committee work has also led to improvements, including recommendations to enhance reports to Cabinet, and has provided a forum for expressing and fact-checking different views, which helps counter misinformation.

Looking forward, there are many areas that warrant scrutiny, including the work of the Cardiff Capital Region Corporate Joint Committee that affects Cardiff, such as the Investment Zone and developments at Cardiff Central. I am sure that 2025-26 will also be a busy year for scrutiny, and I encourage you to get involved; your input would be greatly appreciated.

Scrutiny Chairs - Our Perspective

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Councillor Bethan Proctor, Chair, Environmental Scrutiny Committee

This has been my first year as Chair of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee, and I've thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of reviewing council policies and services but also the opportunity of enhancing democracy and improving council decision making. We've made sure our efforts cover a broad range of topics, from essential services like waste management, recycling, and transportation, to crucial but less visible ones such as air quality management and electric vehicle infrastructure. An important part of our work was reviewing the progress of the One Planet Cardiff strategy and providing feedback on the initial Local Area Energy Plan.

One of the highlights this year has been collaborating with other scrutiny committees on key issues, such as the Replacement Local Development Plan and Core Office. We also joined forces with the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee to examine the Roath Recreation Ground Active Travel scheme, including a site visit that helped us understand the layout better. We invited local residents as well as stakeholders to participate in this committee meeting which helped foster transparency, accountability and democracy in council decisions. We were able to give residents a direct voice in shaping policies and allowed them the space to feel listened to about concerns that they had.

I particularly enjoyed our visit to Flatholm Island, despite getting a bit wet on the way there! It was incredibly valuable to see the island's facilities, appreciate its biodiversity, and meet the partners working to protect this unique landscape.

Effective scrutiny is vital for all of us – it provides a platform for people to voice their opinions, holds decision-makers accountable, offers a space to reflect on the suitability and desirability of proposals, and ultimately helps us make well-informed recommendations. We're eager to hear from residents, workers, and businesses in Cardiff about your experiences with the Council's work and your suggestions for improving services. Please feel free to reach out to us – we would love to hear from you.

Scrutiny Chairs - Our Perspective



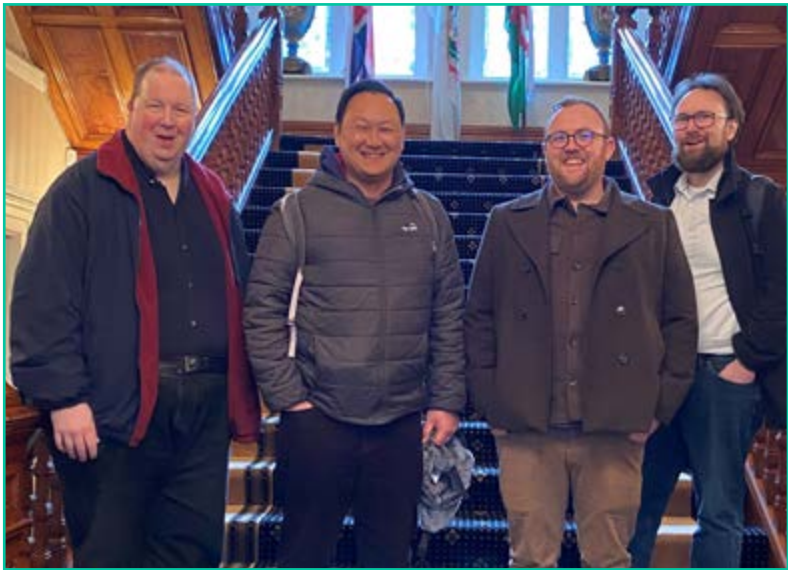
Councillor Adrian Robson, Chair, Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee

It has been my pleasure to Chair the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee this year. As I accept the honour of becoming Lord Mayor of Cardiff for the coming year, I am proud to look back on a year that has seen a growth in joint scrutiny across committees, acknowledging the expertise each committee can offer. We can rarely say a topic is the sole domain of one committee, in the same way the solutions offered by partnership working across our city are rarely solved by one organisation alone. As Scrutiny Chairs we have benefitted from many invitations to join colleagues on other committees to enhance the depth of scrutiny in 2024/25. I commend this approach.

Cardiff has championed strong scrutiny within its governance framework for many years, ensuring that the community understanding of elected back bench members is at the forefront of decision making. It is not only a privilege to bring the voice of our residents to the table, but membership of a scrutiny committee ensures that those that volunteer enjoy greater insight into the challenges the Council is facing. Scrutiny is an opportunity for new and experienced councillors to meet and work together in a non-partisan cross-party setting.

The Terms of Reference for this committee require understanding of the complexities and challenges of running an efficient organisation that can deliver the best services possible. Our work in 2024/25 has spanned headline corporate-wide matters of property, governance, equalities, resources and performance. I have overseen scrutiny of performance through the joint Scrutiny Performance Panel, where all 5 Scrutiny Chairs meet the Leader, Cabinet Member Finance, Modernisation and Performance, and senior officers informally to influence Corporate Plan targets for the year ahead, and monitor the achievement of priorities, actions, and key performance indicators.

I am most grateful to the Committee Members, to the Leader, Cabinet Members and Senior Officers that have engaged with us in 2024/25. I sincerely hope our work has offered a valuable insight to policy making. I commend this Annual Report in the knowledge that there is much work to continue, and that a seat on this Committee constitutes a rare insight and an opportunity for Members to influence Council business.



Our governance role

Cardiff Council's five Scrutiny Committees fulfil a statutory responsibility placed on local authorities to review and check the decisions and actions taken by the Council when it comes to providing services. This is something Councils are required to do by both the UK and Welsh Government.

We also have to make sure important partnerships, set up under Welsh Government laws, are working well. In short, we make sure local partnerships, where the Council plays a leading role, are effective.

The Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee looks at Cardiff's Public Services Board, considering its Annual Report and making recommendations to strengthen the work of the partnership.

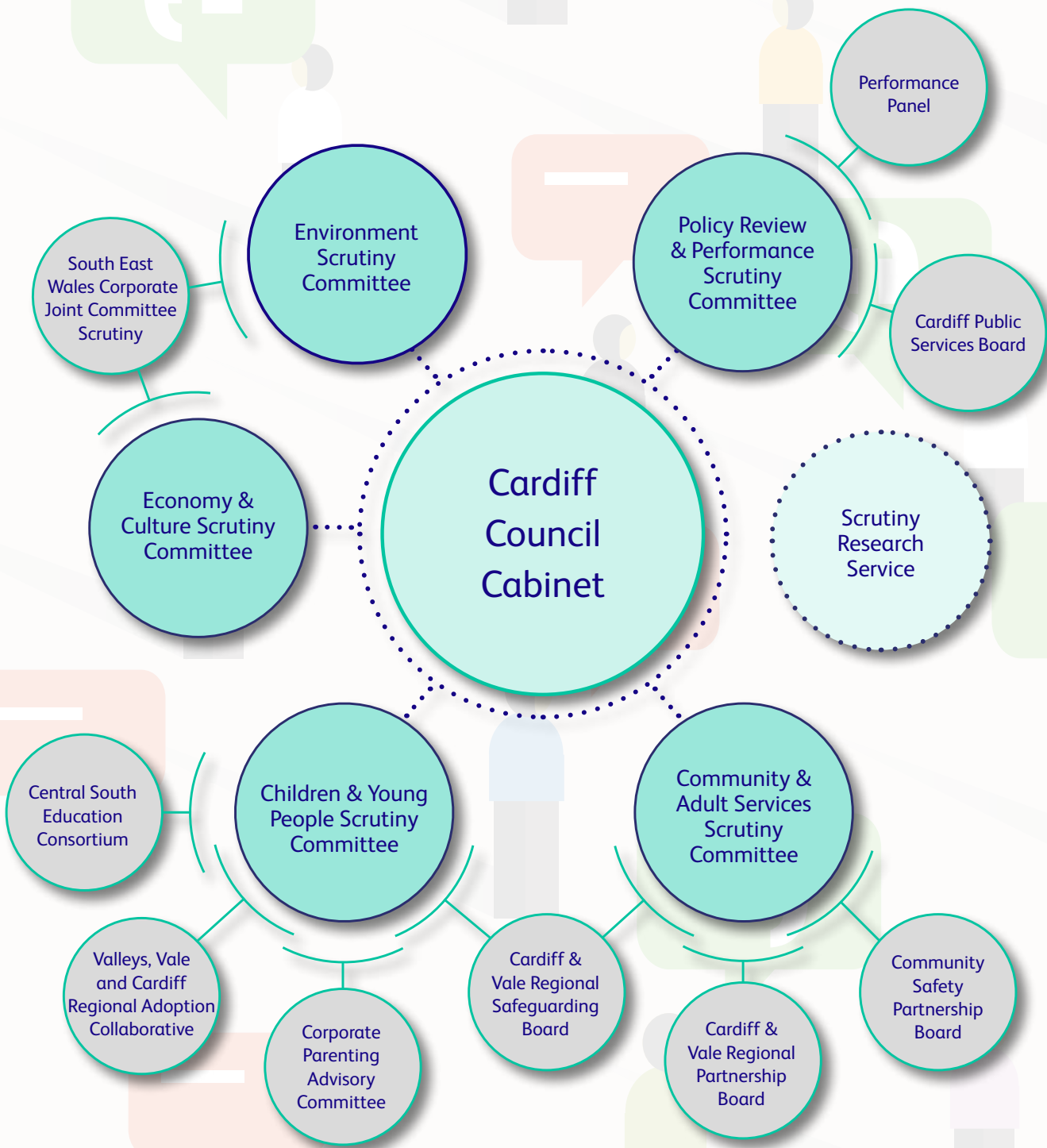
The Community and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee scrutinises both the Cardiff & Vale Regional Partnership Board and the decisions made by the Community Safety Partnership Board about Crime and Disorder matters in Cardiff.

New laws from Welsh Government in April 2021 set up the South-East Wales Corporate Joint Committee, which has replaced the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal. This body has powers to support regional economic wellbeing and is responsible for regional transport and strategic development plans. A joint scrutiny committee made up of representatives from ten local authorities is scrutinising its decisions and links to the Council's Economy & Culture and Environmental Scrutiny Committees, whose Chairs sit on the joint scrutiny committee.

Each Scrutiny Committee has nine elected Members. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee also includes four co-opted members: two parent governor representatives, a Roman Catholic representative, and a Church-in-Wales representative.

The Economy and Culture, Environmental, and Children and Young People Scrutiny Committees offer a seat to a representative from the Cardiff Youth Council, allowing young voices to formally challenge decision-making.

Representatives from the Cardiff Youth Council are also invited to the Community and Adult Services and Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committees when there are relevant items.



Hearing from you ...

Scrutiny gives everyone who lives or works in Cardiff a chance to be heard in the Council's decision-making process. This means more opinions help shape the policies and services that are meant to benefit the community.

Currently, Scrutiny engages with stakeholders and the public 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. This form is available [here](#).
- Publishing each Committee's **Work Programme** on the Council's website, providing awareness of our upcoming work and an opportunity for wider contribution.
- Seeking to understand the views and experiences of customers, service users and carers, via **workshops, focus groups and surveys**.
- Inviting partners, representatives and members of the public to contribute **oral or written evidence** to broaden our understanding and inform our discussions.
- Having an independent, dedicated **research service** to collect and analyse robust stakeholder and / or document-based evidence to inform our consideration of the Council's service delivery, proposed policies and strategies.
- Having **co-optees** on our Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee, representing parent governors, Catholic Dioceses, and the Church in Wales.
- Benefiting from **Cardiff Youth Council** co-optees to ensure the voices of young people in our city are heard.
- **Asking questions** put forward by members of the public.
- Undertaking **site visits** to local services, to meet frontline staff and the public.
- Ensuring transparency, by **webcasting** our committee meetings for public viewing. Please use this [link](#) to access our webcasts.

Some examples of our work involving stakeholders in 2024/25 include:

- Members of the **Filming in Cardiff Task and Finish Inquiry** engaged with location managers, line producers, producers, film companies, Ffilm Cymru, and Creative Wales and also visited a film set in central Cardiff.
- Members of the **Ethnic Minority Communities Access and Experience of Adult Social Care (Older Cohort) Inquiry** arranged and attended listening events with community groups and individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds to hear their views, experiences, and suggestions.
- **Direct engagement** with front-line Council officers and services including Flatholm, Mansion House, Cardiff International White-Water Centre, Into Work Services, Housing Development, and the Procurement Team.
- **Stakeholders attending public committee meetings** to contribute to discussions and inform considerations, including Roath Park Recreation Ground and Trusts Governance.
- Attending the **Ethnic Minorities Health Fair**, to raise awareness of the scrutiny process and how attendees and other stallholders can become involved

- Public **Transport providers** spoke to the Environmental Scrutiny Committee about their experience of working with Cardiff Council Officers to support Event Day Traffic Management
- Considering a submission from the **Cardiff Foodbank** on the potential impact of school meal price increases on their service and the wider public.
- Reviewing how other local authorities have approached the issues of visitor levy and visitor regulation, including looking at **Aberdeen, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, Edinburgh, Highland Council, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Oxford,** and **Pembrokeshire** local authorities and the approach taken by the **Scottish Government** and **Welsh Government**.

Scrutiny has also benefited from reviewing current practice elsewhere, for example:

- reviewing practice regarding filming in **Bath, Birmingham, Bristol, Enfield, Liverpool, Manchester, Neath Port Talbot, Newport and the Vale of Glamorgan Councils,** as well as in **Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority, Cadw, Cardiff University, National Museum of Wales, National Trust, and Natural Resources Wales.**
- A **literature review** of published articles and research regarding lessons learned from work undertaken to introduce visitor levies in Europe.
- A **document review** of key issues relating to ethnic minority access to social care services to inform the scoping and focus of the inquiry.
- A **literature review** to identify good practice in enabling ethnic minority access to social care services.
- A **literature review** to identify policy and good practice in ALN provision.



In the last year, we have heard from the following external stakeholders:

- Adventure Travel
- Airbnb
- Arup
- Bevan Brittan LLP
- Boom Cymru
- Cadw
- Caravan and Motorhome Club
- Cardiff Bus
- Cardiff Foodbank
- Cardiff & District Hoteliers Association
- Cardiff Metropolitan University
- Cardiff Saracens
- Central South Active Partnership
- Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
- Creative Wales
- Charity Commission
- Ffilm Cymru
- Fields in Trust
- FOR Cardiff
- FSB Cymru
- Friends of Roath Park
- Gleeds Consultancy
- GLL
- Griffin Guiding
- Line Producers
- Local Residents
- Location Managers
- Marketing Manchester
- Martin Price Associates
- MG consulting – Professor Barry
- Police & Crime Commissioner
- Producers
- Professional Association of Self Caterers UK
- Race Equality First
- Screen Alliance Wales
- Shan Wales Tours
- Short Term Accommodation Association UK
- Stagecoach
- Sustrans
- The Spires
- Transport for Wales

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How you can get involved ...

Please visit our Get Involved webpage – link [here](#). This sets out how people who live or work in Cardiff can share their views and experiences on the topics being looked at and how they can also suggest a topic for future review.

There are also pages for each scrutiny committee, which provide an overview of the committee and their upcoming work.

To see this information, please click [here](#).

You can also get involved by:

- Contributing to our consultations, surveys, workshops and/or focus groups.
- Being invited as a key witness to present evidence to our Task and Finish Inquiries or to public Scrutiny Committee meetings

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.

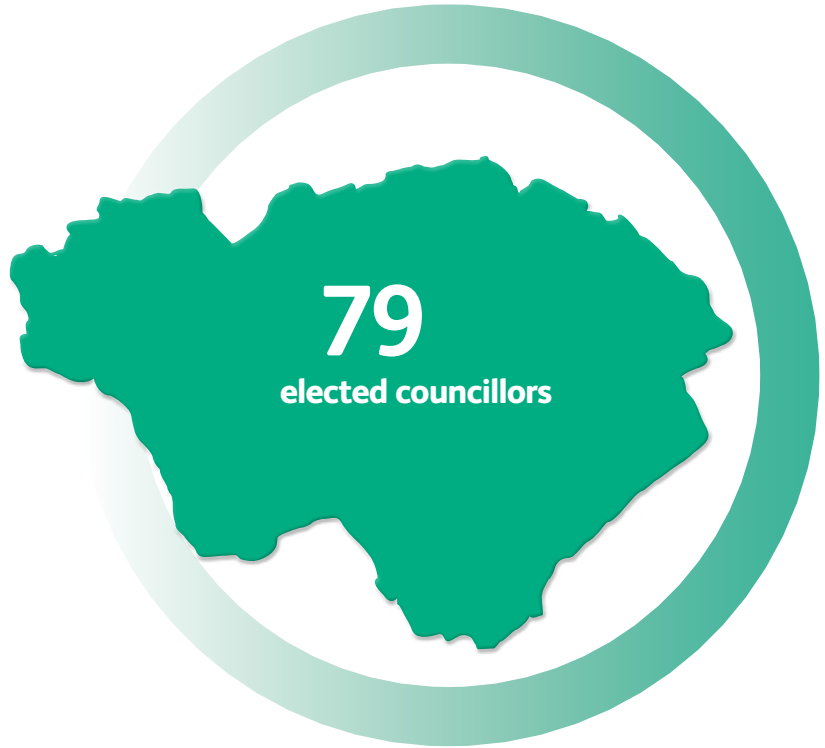
Please use the 'Scrutiny Contact Us' forms available [HERE](#).

Or to speak with a member of the team, please email: scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk

Scrutiny in Numbers

1 Activity

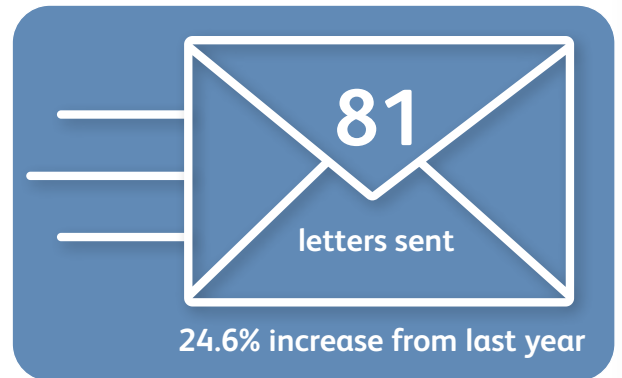
Following the local government elections in May 2022, Cardiff residents are represented by **79 elected Councillors** across 28 wards. Of those Councillors, **40 sit on scrutiny committees**.



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.

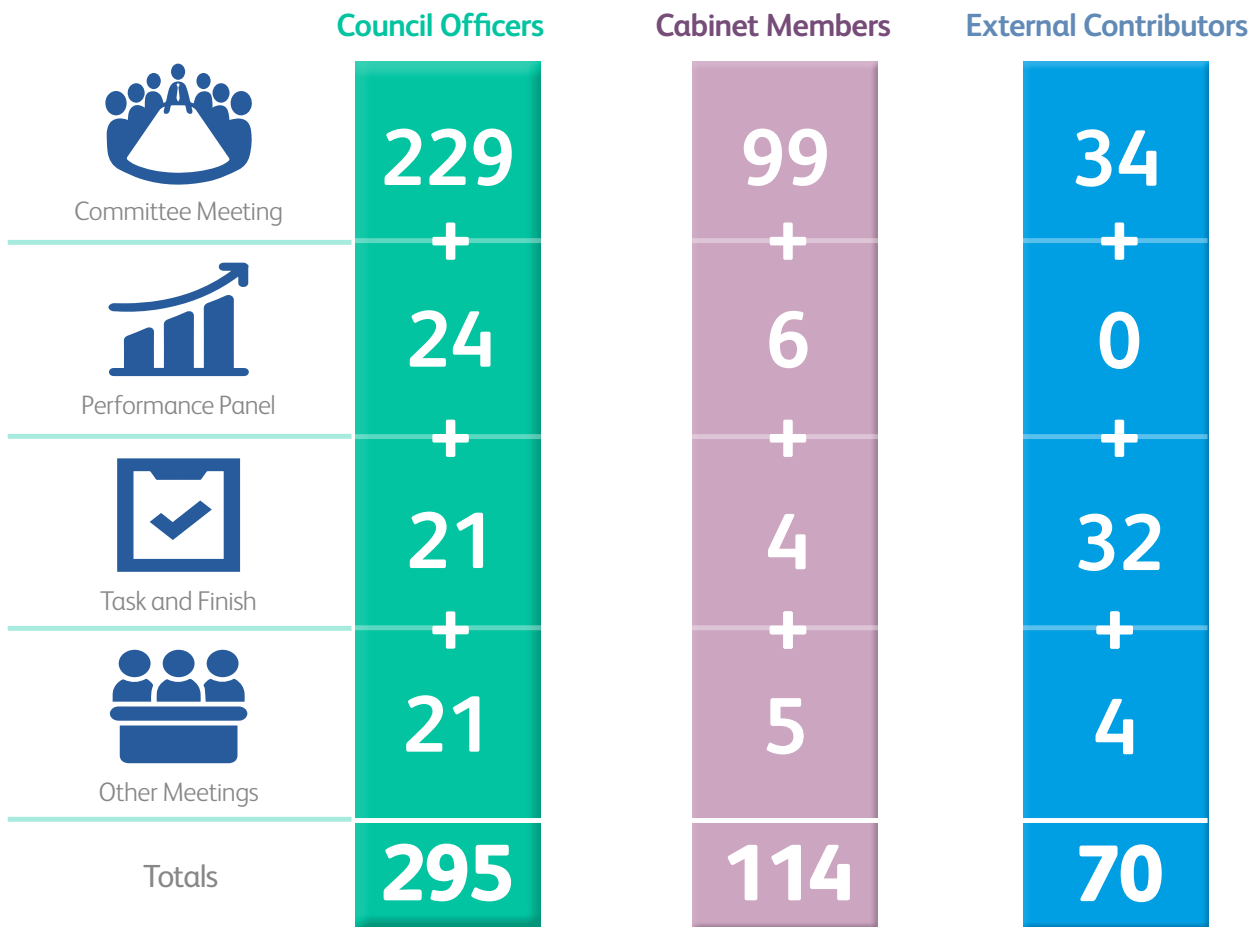
15

83 meetings held –



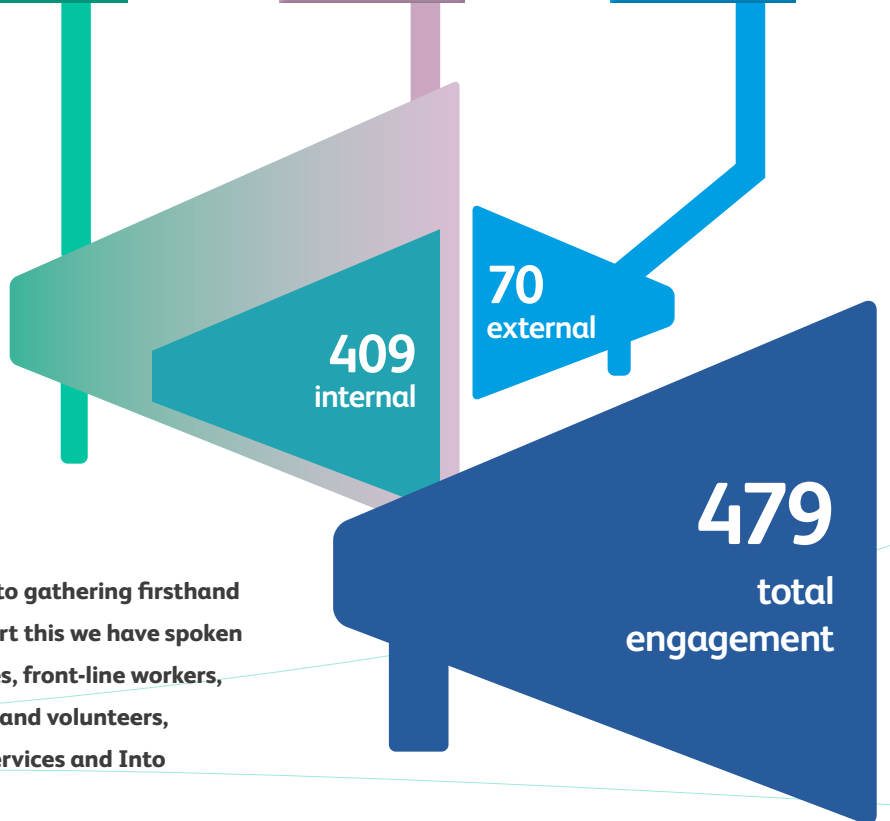
2 Participation

Number of Internal and External Contributors to Scrutiny



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 also seek evidence from service users and external organisations or groups with a stake in the issue being discussed.

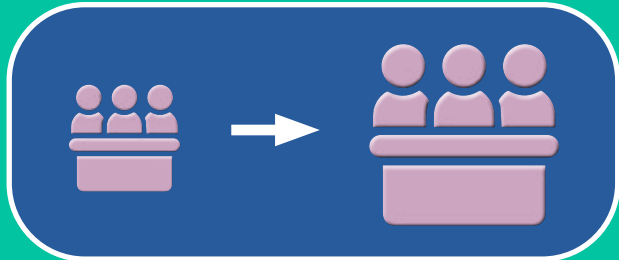
This year, we have remained committed to gathering firsthand experiences to inform our work; to support this we have spoken directly with ethnic minority communities, front-line workers, head teachers of local schools, film staff and volunteers, and staff in the council's Procurement Services and Into Work Services.



Webcasting Views of Scrutiny Committees

Cardiff Council's commitment toward allowing stakeholders full insight into its decision making process continues to grow. **This year, the number of views for formal scrutiny meetings increased by over 16%.** The total number of formal scrutiny meetings webcast for public viewing also increased by 14%. You can find all publicly broadcast scrutiny committees on the Council's website by [clicking here](#).

Since 2021/22 the number of views for scrutiny meetings has increased by 60%.



5112
total views

113

Average views per webcast meeting was 104 in 2023/24 = 8.7% increase

95

Hours of content

45

Scrutiny meetings webcast

1095

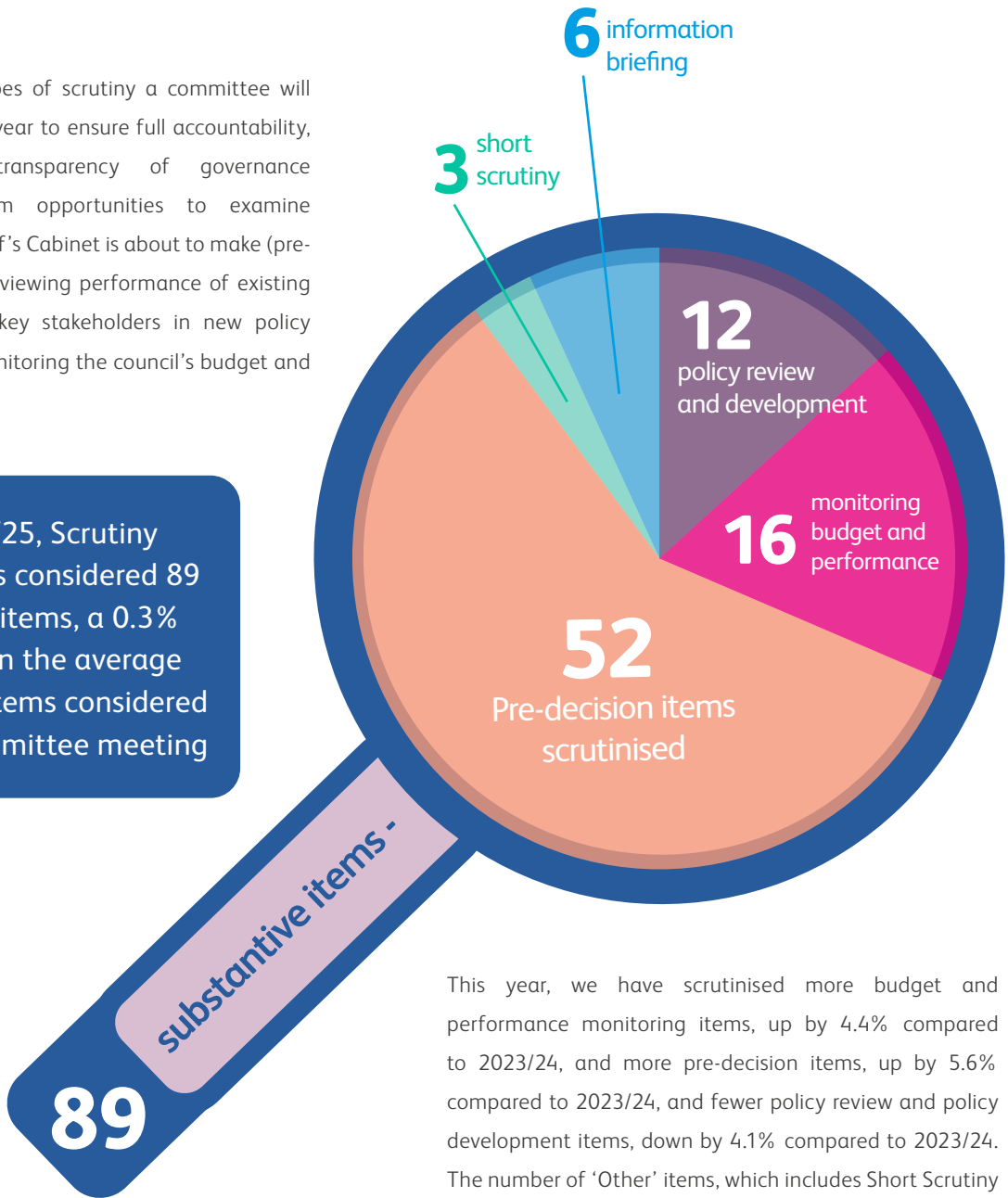
Hours of webcast views

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 performance of existing policies, acting as key stakeholders in new policy development, to monitoring the council’s budget and its performance.

In 2024/25, Scrutiny Committees considered 89 individual items, a 0.3% decrease in the average number of items considered at each committee meeting



This year, we have scrutinised more budget and performance monitoring items, up by 4.4% compared to 2023/24, and more pre-decision items, up by 5.6% compared to 2023/24, and fewer policy review and policy development items, down by 4.1% compared to 2023/24. The number of 'Other' items, which includes Short Scrutiny and Information Briefings, dropped by 5.9% compared to 2023/24.

Scrutiny Recommendations

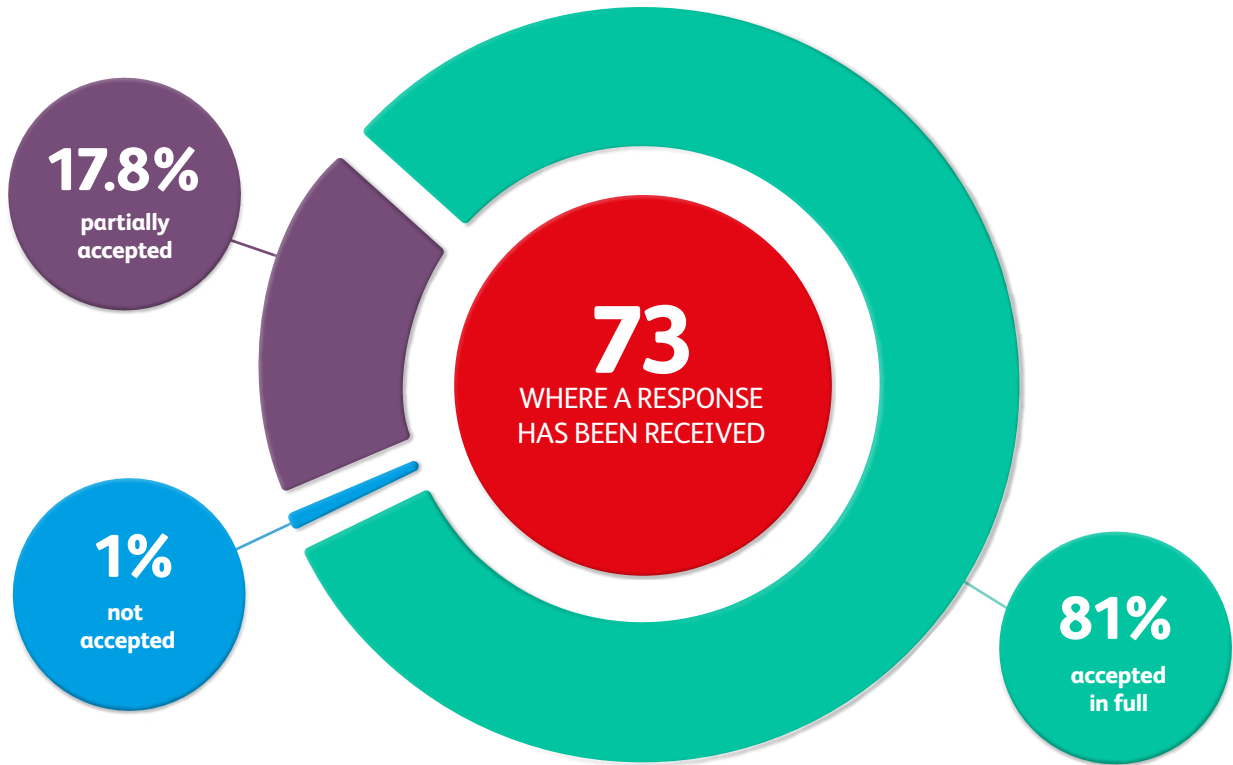
Scrutiny is all about driving improvement!

Following our work in 2024/25, whether at a formal committee meeting, smaller Task & Finish Inquires, or our cross-committee Performance Panel, **we made a total of 105 recommendations** for improvement to the council's Cabinet.

This is a 3% decrease on the number of recommendations made last year.



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Cabinet has responded to 73 of our 105 recommendations; Of these, 98.8% have either been accepted in full or partially accepted. We are waiting for responses to 32 recommendations, of which 18 were made following scrutiny at a committee meeting and 14 were made following a Task and Finish Group Inquiry.

Average Substantiveness Scores

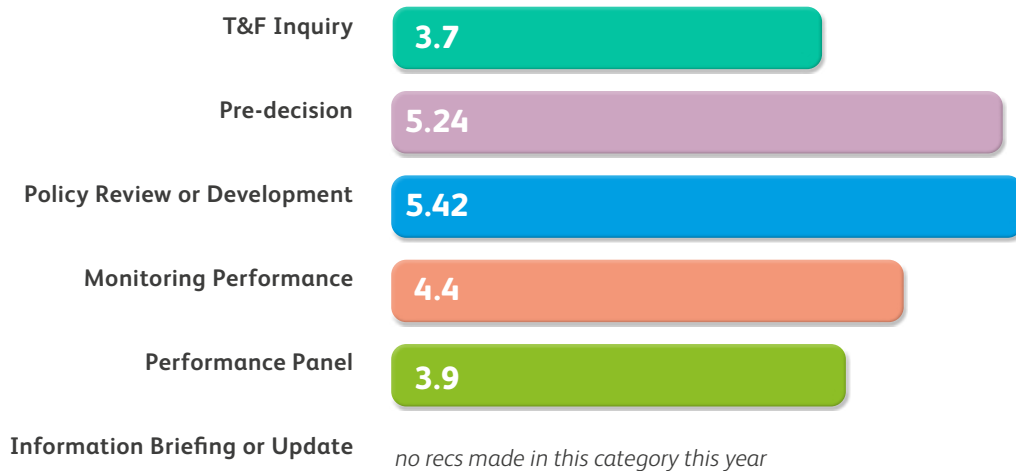
The Value of Our Recommendations

Scrutiny provides meaningful recommendations which add value and deliver positive change. In an attempt to measure the 'value' of the recommendations made by Scrutiny, a scoring table was devised which calculates the 'importance' of the recommendations made based on the significance of the topic or policy being considered and the level of change being recommended. Within the scoring table, policy significance is marked 1, 2 or 3 (minor, medium, major) and is determined by whether it is a policy in its own right or is included in key corporate policies.

The level of change posed by a recommendation is scored similarly, 0, 1, 2 or 3 (no change, small change, medium change, large change), the two scores are then multiplied to provide a total figure. The highest, and most positive score which can be obtained under this method is 9 and the lowest score is 0.

Undertaking this scoring system on the recommendations made helps us to evaluate the impact of recommendations being made within each type of scrutiny activity.

Total substantiveness score/number of substantive items



By measuring in this way we know that in 2024/25, of the 89 substantive topics/items we considered, it was our time spent on Policy Development and Review scrutiny that produced recommendations likely to make the greatest impact.

Our Impact ...

Ultimately, Scrutiny's goal is to drive Council service improvement.

We do this by:

- Providing an arena for decision-makers, stakeholders, and the public to collaborate.
- Raising public awareness about Council services – highlighting successes and areas for improvement.
- Shining a spotlight on Council services that hold significant public interest and value.
- Supplying valuable evidence into the Council's decision-making process.
- Challenging assumptions by listening to diverse voices.
- Gathering knowledge and experience from specialists, service users, and the public.
- Checking the Council is collaborating well with its partners
- Identifying opportunities to enhance policies and service delivery.
- Supporting policy and strategy development by using best practices from other local authorities.
- Offering recommendations that often lead to positive changes in Council policies or practices.
- Regularly reviewing and monitoring performance across key council services such as Social Services and Education & Schools to ensure that key commitments and performance measures are being met.

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Some examples of our impact in 2024-25 are:

Enhancing Engagement/ Consultation

- Suggesting the Council provide more information for effective engagement.
- Encouraging the Council to widely advertise community engagement events.
- Recommending the Council use feedback from young people for policy proposals.
- Continuing to call for an easy read version of the Council's Corporate Plan for the next three years to help residents understand Council priorities.

Strengthening Governance

- Suggesting more detailed reports to the Cabinet to ensure they are fully informed and the public can see the evidence used for decisions.
- Recommending checks on the reliability of external evidence.
- Proposing the appointment of independent trustees to add value, perception, challenge and skills where the Cabinet is the sole trustee.

Improving Services

- Recommending effective measures for monitoring and review.
- Suggesting stronger presence on social and local media to boost recruitment for Adult Services.
- Identifying ways to improve the Council's offer to attract more filming for economic and cultural benefits.

- Recognising schools as community hubs and urging the Cabinet to include this in the Corporate Property Strategy 2025/30.
- Reviewing quarterly performance reports for Children and Adult Services.
- Playing a key role in the Council's Play Services Assessment.
- Evaluating large-scale school developments as part of the Community Focussed Schools Programme.
- Scrutinising new arrangements for changes to local and regional School Improvement Programmes.
- Supporting Council Services in the effort to eliminate profit from care.

Strengthening Strategies and Policies

- Annual Wellbeing Report – suggesting improvements to assist clarity.
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Strategy – emphasising the importance of member engagement.
- Checking progress on delivery of strategies and policies, including partnership and regional work.

Council as an Employer

- Highlighting the need for the Council to work with local childcare providers at the new Core Office site, allowing for different working methods and supporting sustainable development.
- Securing feedback mechanisms to assess the impact of new digital processes on staff.

Joining Up Scrutiny

In 2024-25, we've continued to build on our teamwork approach to ensure more effective, robust and inclusive scrutiny. Recognising the complexity of some of the topics we're examining, and the benefits of harnessing different areas of expertise, committees have taken a range of approaches to widen involvement by other backbench members, as follows:

Widening Committee Participation

In October 2024, the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee looked into the Council's new Core Office proposals. The Chair invited members from the Economy and Culture and Environmental Scrutiny Committees to join in, ensuring we covered finance, property, environmental, and economic regeneration themes. Questions were raised about the building's carbon impact, its role in the wider regeneration of Cardiff Bay, and the options appraisal and procurement process.

In November 2024, the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee reviewed a report on Heritage Assets, including the Old Library and Mansion House as well as an update on council property. To cover all aspects, the Chair invited the Chair of the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee, which has responsibility for council property, to take part in this scrutiny and to ask questions that fell within the remit of his committee. This collaboration continued with a shared site visit to the Mansion House.

Throughout the year, scrutiny members from various committees have been invited to submit questions to the Chair of the Committee leading the scrutiny of topics that span multiple areas, such as Shared Regulatory Services Business Plan and Workforce Planning, as well as the Corporate Plan and Budgetary Proposals.

Widening Inquiry Participation

Two of our Committees - the Community and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee and the Environmental Scrutiny Committee - decided to offer cross-council representation on their inquiries. This allowed interested backbench members to participate in the Ethnic Minority Communities Access and Experience of Adult Social Care Inquiry, which also includes external representation from Race Equality First, and the Electric Vehicle Gully Charging Inquiry.

In addition, the Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committee invited a former member of the committee to join the Filming in Cardiff Inquiry, benefiting from their perspective and interest.



Joint Committee Meetings

In October, we held a joint meeting between the Environmental and Economy and Culture Scrutiny Committees to address public concerns about the **Roath Park Recreation Ground Active Travel scheme**. We wanted to learn from the development and implementation of the scheme. External witnesses, stakeholders and residents were invited to provide written statements and attend.

January 2025 saw us harnessing expertise from the Environmental and Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committees, to review the **Cardiff Local Development Plan 2021-2036 Deposit Plan**. Since this Plan affects all Council services, we also included input from our other scrutiny committees, the Children & Young People, Community & Adult Services, and Economy & Culture scrutiny committees. Whether it's homes, jobs, travel, neighbourhoods, climate change, or ecosystems, the RLDP Deposit Plan sets out the City's goals, and scrutiny played a key role, ensuring their strong voice was heard.



Scrutiny Performance Panel

Our *stronger together* voice as five Chairs of Scrutiny supported three informal discussions with Cabinet on Council-wide performance during 2024/25. The Scrutiny Performance Panel, a sub-committee of the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee, reviewed the Corporate Plan's steps, performance indicators and targets, as well as mid-year and end-of-year performance. The Panel's recommendations, of which 83.5% were fully accepted, have strengthened Council processes and provided robust challenge of performance.



Scrutiny - Out and About...

This year, Scrutiny Members have been out and about, visiting both existing services, to meet staff and service users so they can better understand their experiences, and new provision, to see what this will offer to residents. These visits include:

- **Into Work services**

Saw the broad range of services on offer and the wide-ranging partnership working underpinning the offer to residents.

- **Housing Development Sites**

Visited two sites where new council housing is being provided for residents.

- **Cardiff International White-Water Centre**

Had a tour of the centre, with staff explaining the various courses provided and the marketing undertaken to promote the centre.

- **Mansion House**

Had a tour of the venue, seeing first-hand the condition of the property and the work undertaken at the venue to support the Lord Mayoral duties

- **Flatholm Island**

Visited the Island to understand the offer to visitors and the work underway with partners to protect and promote the biodiversity of the Island.

- **Roath Park Recreation Ground**

Saw first-hand the Active Travel Scheme and how it interacts with other provision and use of the park.



Scrutiny Self-Assessment 2024-25

In 2024-25, we began a self- assessment in order to keep improving our services. Work undertaken included:

- Surveying Members leaving scrutiny committees – June 2024
- Checking compliance with Welsh Government guidance for scrutiny – September 2024
- Surveying people who took part in scrutiny meetings and inquiries – March 2025.

We found that we are following over 72% of Welsh Government guidelines. Most of the areas where we are not following guidelines require a whole-Council approach, including the Councillor Call for Action and the co-option process, and these will be considered by the Council's Constitution Committee. We have plans to fix the remaining areas, including the review of the Multilocation Meetings Policy.

The findings from this work have been discussed by the Scrutiny Chairs and are being used to identify key areas for improvement. We are proposing to hold a workshop for all scrutiny members in 2025-26, so everyone can share their thoughts and help create an action plan for improvement.



Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee

Our Membership



Councillor Jess Moultrie (Chair)



Councillors Saleh Ahmed, Claudia Boes, Calum Davies, Helen Gunter, Robert Hopkins, Irene Humphreys, Emma Reid-Jones and Kanaya Singh



Co-opted Members: Bridgid Corr (Parent Governor Representative), Celeste Lewis (Parent Governor Representative), Carol Cobert (Church in Wales Representative), and Patricia Arlotte (Roman Catholic representative)



Youth Council Representative: Emily Gao

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 the Council is working to implement National Government Policies such as eliminating profit from care and changes to policy around Additional Learning Needs;
- We ensure that key Council Policies in this area are developed and put in place; and
- We make recommendations to the Council's decision-makers to enhance performance and service delivery.

Our Key Achievements during 2024-25

During 2024/25, the Committee's work was predominantly driven by pre-decision scrutiny, with Members considering a range of proposals from across Council. This included Provision for Children and Young People with Additional Learning Needs (ALN); School Organisation Proposals for Fairwater Campus, Lansdowne Primary and Ysgol Coed Y Gof; the School Investment Strategy; and Passenger Transport DPS Framework (which included implications for home to school transport).

As with previous years, the Committee continued to focus on understanding the sustained pressures faced by all services under its terms of reference; and the impact of the introduction of new/additional legislation affecting services and wider partners. Across all services, Members looked at capacity and demand on services; the changes required to meet legislation around areas such as ALN Reform and Eliminating Profit from Care; the significant financial challenges faced by services; and the increasing complexity of the landscape. Members were resolute in understanding the pressures faced by staff (particularly those on the front line) and supporting Cabinet Members and senior managers in mitigating the risks around this.

Issues around Schools also continued to be a motivation for the committee during 2024/25. As well as the issues already mentioned above, Members were involved with the introduction of the Collaboration and Federation Strategy; and issues relating to individual schools, particularly school budgets and deficits.

Members were involved with the future of the School Improvement Agenda and scrutinised how the local authority will support and challenge schools from September 2025 in response to changes in these arrangements mandated by the Welsh Government.

On a quarterly basis, the Committee monitors the performance of Children's Services for children who are looked after, children in need, the youth justice service and staffing. The Committee regularly seeks clarification on areas of concern and expectations for improvement, which are always responded to. In addition, the Committee received the Accommodation Strategy Phase 2, which aims to improve placements available in Cardiff and address the eliminating profit from care agenda.

During 2024/25, the Committee also considered reports from the the Local Authority Social Services Annual Report; the Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Adoption Consortium Annual Report; and Education Admissions Policy; and received briefings on Personal and Period Dignity; and Sport for All.

Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA)

In 2024/25, the committee worked on policy development with Play Services to assess available services in Cardiff. In October and November 2024, they met with officers and were key contributors to the PSA.

Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Task & Finish Group

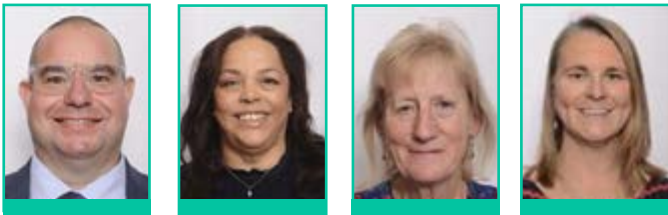
During 2024/25, the Committee agreed to prioritise issues relating to children and young people with additional learning and neurodivergent needs. The aim of the Inquiry is to establish the impact of ALN on schools, families and other stakeholders; identify any gaps in current provision and how these can be addressed by examining good practice from elsewhere. It also aims to identify any barriers to providing and accessing additional support; and a session will be dedicated to investigating the challenge of costs of home to school transport in this area, including impact of the 2–3-mile rule. This Inquiry is ongoing, though has not progressed as much as intended due to capacity issues and other work pressures.

Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

Our Membership



Councillor Bablin Molik (Chair)



Councillors Ali Ahmed, Claudia Boes, Sue Lent, Peter Littlechild, Margaret Lewis, Mary McGarry, Sian-Elin Melbourne



Youth Council Representative: Tegan Griffiths

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 Key Achievements during 2024-25

- Members of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee principal aim is to undertake **meaningful work, which supports Council service improvement**. Over the course of the year, the Committee has conducted **visits to local provisions**, connected with **frontline staff, external organisations**, contributed to the development of **key policies, held informal briefings**, and made **6 formal recommendations** for Cabinet consideration. Further insight into just some of the key areas of work undertaken by the Committee this year is offered below.

- In support of the service area's significant objective toward developing an **Adult Services Equality Action Plan**, the Committee has established a Task & Finish Inquiry to explore ethnic minority communities' access and experience of Adult Social Care services (older cohort). Membership of the Inquiry benefits from **cross-council representation** and external representation from **Race Equality First**. Central to this work has been Inquiry Members engaging directly with **community groups** and **individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds** to hear their views and suggestions. This work is set to conclude later in 2025 and will be presented to the relevant Cabinet Members and officers to help inform the plan's development.
- **Housing need in the city continues to rise** and in response to the continued housing emergency, Members were briefed on the council's proposals to increase the accommodation supply in the city and welcomed the ongoing and continued efforts to finding solutions. Members recommended that there must be further consideration on whether an Environmental or Health Impact Assessment is required if similar proposals are made on the repurposing of buildings.
- Members were informed of the service area's **homeless provision** winter plans for 2024-2025, and members welcomed how the planning appears to be underpinned by 'lessons learnt' and an 'early planning' ethos, recognising strengths of past provisions and where learning can be drawn upon. Members further requested a deeper baseline understanding of the issue and received a briefing on the **Council's Housing Allocation policy**, including insight into the numbers currently on the housing waiting list.
- Members visited a **new residential community living development for older people**, to see first-hand how it was developing. Members were able to learn about how the design and the facilities that would be available, were centred around the needs of older people. Members enjoyed their visit and could see the progress being made.
- In addition, during the year Committee Members have also played a significant role in scrutinising the proposals to increase **domiciliary care charges** for residents in need, and proposals to raise **council house rent and service charges**, strongly testing both proposals against social value. Furthermore, the committee has also continued to **closely monitor the performance and quality of services** within the field of adult and community services and informed policy development of the **Age Friendly City Action Plan** and the **Housing Support Programme Strategy Refresh**.

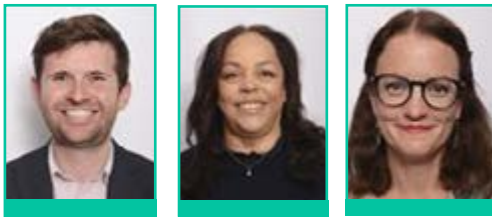


Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee

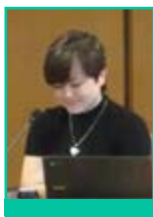
Our Membership



Councillor Peter Wong (Chair)



Councillors Rodney Berman, Catriona Brown-Reckless, Jamie Green, Peter Huw Jenkins, Owen Jones, Margaret Lewis, Sara Robinson



Youth Council Representative: Eleanor Hopkins

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 Key Achievements during 2024-25

This year has been a busy mix of different types of scrutiny – examining proposed decisions, existing policies, service delivery and regional working at committee, undertaking in-depth inquiries, reviewing performance, and carrying out a number of visits to Council facilities to better understand how these operate. Throughout these activities, we have been open to involving external stakeholders, including members of the public, partner organisations, and businesses. In particular, we have:

- Scrutinised several issues relating to **Parks, Sport and Leisure**, including Field in Trust proposals, the Football Facilities Strategic Framework, the work of the Central South Active Partnership, and the ongoing contract with GLL to deliver Better Leisure Centres. We visited Flatholm and the Cardiff International White-Water Centre, to see first-hand the services delivered and discuss how these are marketed.

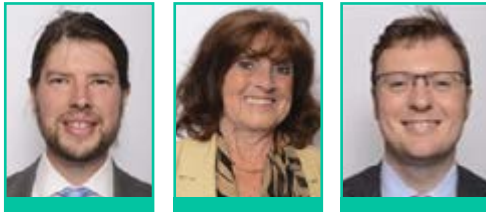
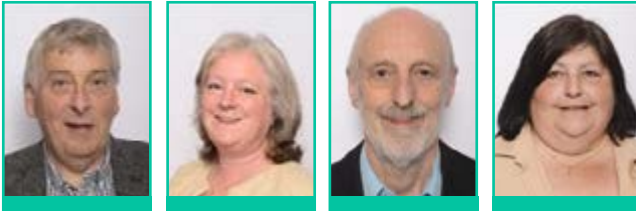
- Held a joint scrutiny with the Environmental Scrutiny Committee on **the Roath Park active travel scheme**, that enabled us to look at the issues raised, ensuring residents and stakeholders were heard, while pushing back on and fact-checking deliberate disinformation at the same time. We also visited Roath Recreation Ground, as part of our joint scrutiny to see the active travel route and the interface between this and other park uses.
- Reviewed the proposed **Hubs and Libraries Strategy**, highlighting the rich data source that could be used to identify behaviour patterns and gaps in service provision, and noting the ambition to build on these already strong services. We also visited Central Library to see **Into Work** services in action, having previously scrutinised these as part of our Employment Services short scrutiny.
- Heard from **Shared Regulatory Services** regarding their successful ongoing work to tackle recruitment and retention issues, helping to ensure workloads are manageable and service delivery is secure.
- Examined several regeneration proposals, including **Park House**, the **Old Library** and **Mansion House**, which Members visited to see for themselves the condition of the property and to hear about the activities hosted. Members highlighted the need to ensure that Cabinet were fully sighted on salient contextual information and usage data before taking their decisions, recommending additions to the reports to Cabinet re Park House and the Mansion House and that future reports to Cabinet on these and similar matters contain this type of information. Members also reviewed the work delivered via the wider **Shared Prosperity Fund**.
- Scrutinised the next steps in the **Atlantic Wharf** and **International Sports Village** major projects, exploring issues highlighted by local residents, seeking assurance that these were being addressed, and recommending that the Design Commission for Wales be invited to be involved in this stage of the International Sports Village
- Considered work to date on the **Cardiff Music Strategy** and the **Cardiff Music City Festival** as well as receiving an update on partnership working on **City Centre Management** and the **Night Time Economy**.
- Examined the proposed way forward for developing the **Tourism and Events Strategy** and recommended that officers explore working with an external company to enable monitoring of online perceptions of Cardiff.
- Undertaken an in-depth investigation into **Filming in Cardiff**, receiving valuable insights from key stakeholders including location managers, production managers and line managers, Boom Cymru, Creative Wales/ Wales Screen, Ffilm Cymru and Screen Alliance Wales, and visiting a film set. We also benefitted from a Scrutiny Research Report into services offered by Bath, Bristol, Enfield, Liverpool and Manchester local authorities. We made 14 recommendations to Cabinet, aimed at enhancing the Council's ability to attract more filming projects, which bring economic and cultural benefits to Cardiff and the region.
- Started an in-depth investigation into the **Visitor Levy and Regulation**, examining lessons learnt from other areas that have introduced a levy and gathering stakeholders' views on how they would like to be involved in discussions, possible governance arrangements, and how they would like levy monies to be used
- Received regular updates on the regional scrutiny of the **Corporate Joint Committee**, and on the work of the Western Gateway
- Contributed to wider joint scrutiny of the **Deposit Plan** and of **Core Office** proposals, ensuring those aspects related to our terms of reference were considered.

Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Our Membership



Councillor Bethan Proctor (Chair)



Councillors Mike Ash-Edwards, Kate Carr, Bob Derbyshire, Andrea Gibson, John Lancaster, Jacqueline Parry and Daniel Waldron.



Youth Council Representative – Shifa Shazad

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 Key Achievements during 2024-25

- **Recycling & Neighbourhood Services** – the committee continued to receive updates regarding the roll-out of segregated recycling across the city in an aim to improve recycling rates to reach Welsh Government targets and avoid financial penalties. Houses of Multiple Occupation and blocks of flats are not currently involved in the roll-out and potential solutions are being investigated; Members have prioritised these for scrutiny before implementation.

- **One Planet Cardiff** is the Council's response to the Climate Emergency and sets out its strategy to achieve its Carbon Neutral target by 2030. This year we received a third update following the adoption of the strategy and its Action Plan and noted the One Planet Cardiff website has been updated and is receiving more 'hits' following social media campaigns. Members were interested to hear about the proposal to develop a **Green Growth Proposition**, which aims to assist in identifying achievable actions to reduce emissions; we propose to scrutinise this in 2025-26.
- We commented on the first **Local Area Energy Plan** for Cardiff, noting approximately 70% of Cardiff's energy will need to be imported despite the proposed actions in the Plan. Members sought clarification on regional work and work with Welsh Government and how the Plan fits with the Replacement Local Delivery Plan (RLDP) and the proposed Green Growth Proposition.
- We considered the **Local Air Quality** Annual Monitoring Report, exploring the factors that have led to improvements including modal shift, electric vehicles, and changes in traffic flows and patterns post-Covid. Members noted funding is secured for a permanent solution for Castle Street and propose to scrutinise proposals for this in 2025-26.
- Members scrutinised progress in delivering the 10-year **Active Travel** programme, noting challenges and considerations that will affect implementation, including changing Welsh Government guidance and funding mechanisms. Members sought clarification of the distance of cycleways still to be delivered, the timescales for this and the funding in place, as well as requesting sight of the new guidance regarding travel routes and how best to overlay cycling routes with other travel routes. Members **recommended** more work is undertaken to gather and analyse qualitative data regarding active travel choices. Members also explored progress with walking schemes, noting that the public would probably not be aware of these improvements unless local to them and therefore **recommended** that more was done to promote this work via positive headlines and improved communications.
- We scrutinised the **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Roadmap**, seeking an understanding of how decisions are taken regarding where to place provision, the need to ensure street clutter is avoided to ensure streets are navigable, and the funding available. Members noted the need to keep provision under review, given the fast-paced change in technology and hardware in this area.
- Members investigated the **performance management processes** in the Planning, Transport and Environment Directorate, seeking clarification of the performance information available, escalation and mitigation processes, and improvement processes such as benchmarking clubs, and requesting 6-monthly bespoke performance reports focused on frontline services, to provide transparent performance reports for members and the public.
- Across the year, Members participated in a number of joint scrutiny meetings and activities including: **Core Office** proposals, attending the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee to ask questions relating to the environmental aspects of the proposals; the active travel scheme in **Roath Recreation ground**, holding a joint committee meeting with the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee and hearing from a range of stakeholders, including members of the public; holding a joint committee meeting with the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the **Replacement Local Development Plan – Deposit Plan**; and participating in a visit to **Flatholm Island** alongside Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee members, seeing first-hand the facilities on offer and learning how these are marketed whilst also protecting the island's biodiversity.

Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee

Our Membership



Councillor Adrian Robson (Chair)



Councillors Mike Ash-Edwards, Bernie Bowen-Thomson, Joe Carter, Jasmin Choudhury, Susan Elsmore, Graham Hinchey, Garry Hunt and Caro Wild.

Our Purpose

- The Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee holds the Council to account on its delivery of key organisational functions. We examine the back-office support services on which frontline services depend. That means how finances, property, digital support and staff resources are used to deliver the best possible services for citizens.
- Our aim is to ensure the efficient use of resources to maximise citizen 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 each year.
- Each month we publicly engage and question cabinet members on their plans and strategies, and senior officers responsible for service delivery.
- We report our findings to the Cabinet by making recommendations we consider would enhance Council performance and the effectiveness of its policies, for the benefit of Cardiff citizens.

Our Key Achievements during 2024-25

This year the Committee has prioritised scrutiny of **Property, Governance** and **Equalities**, alongside our critical oversight of **Resources** and **Performance**. As the Administration moves into its fourth year 2024/25 has seen many new strategies, developments and headlines, allowing the Committee a voice. In particular, we have had impact when challenging the following:

- **Core Office & Property** - Autumn 2024 found the Council in a position to present the Full Business Case for its **Core Office Strategy** (October '24) to the Committee for pre-decision scrutiny. A key part of the proposal was approval of the Council's requirement for 100,000sqft of new offices and a management suite, and approval for the appointment of the successful bidder. This was an occasion calling for **bespoke joint scrutiny** to ensure full consideration of finance & property, environmental, and economic regeneration themes, the Chair of PRAP inviting members of the Economy & Culture and Environmental Scrutiny Committees to participate in the scrutiny.

The Committee gave its broad support for the proposed new 100,000 sq. ft. core office building, recognising the risks posed by the deteriorating County Hall and the need for a building with a lower carbon impact, welcoming the options appraisals undertaken and robust procurement process followed to determine the preferred bidder. One important recommendation was that the Council remains open to partnership working with local creche providers, leaving space for different ways of working and a blended economy, including enabling local cooperatives, thus maximising contributions to sustainable development.

We undertook policy development scrutiny of the refreshed **Corporate Property Strategy** for 2025/30 (December '24), recommending better use of schools as community-based hubs, a specific property debt recovery policy and wider collaboration with Finance and Legal Services, and that the Strategy retains access to parks and open spaces for the benefit of all, with a view to the health of future generations. To monitor progress in delivering this Strategy we turn to pre-decision scrutiny of the Annual Property Plan 2024/25 (July '24).

- **Governance** - Our focus on the Council's arrangements for transparent governance of the Trusts for which it is sole trustee has continued in 2024/25. A short

scrutiny gathered external evidence to inform our recommendations and reassured us that the Legal team were progressing the Council's **Trusts Governance** policy (March '25) in line with Charity Commission Guidance. Once again, we recommended the Council appoints independent trustees alongside elected Members, especially where they can add value to the Committee through wider perception, challenge, and to help fill any skills gap.

- **Equalities** – 2024/25 has been a year focussed on improving participation and equalities for the Council. The Committee played its part, scrutinising the **Equalities, Diversity & Inclusion Strategy 2024/28** (September '24), and monitoring progress in delivering the **Participation Strategy 2023/28** (March '25). We have made many equalities and diversity focussed recommendations this year, perhaps the most important led to the creation of a new Corporate Plan Key Performance Indicator, and target, to monitor progress on engaging with hard-to-reach groups.
- **Resources** – Central to the Committee's work has been seeking assurances that frontline and back-office services are effectively resourced, and the Council is financially resilient. We examined the **Budget Strategy 2025/26** (July '24) for dealing with the challenges ahead, the **Budget Proposals for 2025/26** (February '25), and we closely monitored both **Revenue and Capital Budgets** (October '24) mid-way through the year. All have been subject to pre-decision scrutiny. With legislative changes afoot at UK and Welsh Government levels, we shone a spotlight on the Council's **Procurement Service** (April '25) to fully understand the services delivered in collaboration with other councils and to check on progress in delivering the Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy 2022-27. We have also examined **Digital Progress** (November 2024), recommending that managers factor in staff well-being following the introduction of new digital processes.

- Performance** – The Committee co-ordinates and chairs the joint **Scrutiny Performance Panel**, comprised of all five Chairs of Scrutiny. Three times each year discussions with Cabinet centre on the Council’s Corporate Plan, the targets it sets and the performance progress at mid and end of year. This year the Panel made 31 recommendations following the informal discussions, 26 of which were accepted and five partially accepted. Following Panel discussions, the Committee formally scrutinised the **Annual Well-being Report 2023/24**, the **Mid-Year Performance Report 2024/25** and the **Corporate Plan 2025/28**, monitoring Cabinet’s response to the recommendations of the five scrutiny committees.
- Partnerships** - The Committee is statutorily required to consider the annual report of the Cardiff **Public Services Board (PSB)**. The Board offers collaborative leadership, vision and strategic decision making across the Council, Health, Police, Fire & Rescue, Natural Resources Wales and the Third Sector. This year the Committee made four recommendations for improvement: to ensure an appropriate scale of emergency response is in place to deal with catastrophic environmental events; to apply the methods that have been successful in the PCC consultation to future PSB consultations; to prioritise work to improve the public perception of community safety; and to consider ways of addressing the Boards democratic distance from the public.



Looking ahead ...

Scrutiny Committees are gearing up to set their Work Programmes for 2025-26.

We use a mix of methods to look into the topics on our agenda. These include Task and Finish Inquiries, checking performance, scrutinising policies, reviewing services, and evaluating statutory partnerships.

Each month, we tailor our approach to fit the topic and ensure timely, effective results. We also collaborate with other scrutiny committees when a wider perspective can lead to better outcomes.

Now is the ideal time to suggest ideas for our future work. Take a look at our current priorities below and feel free to share your thoughts with us.

Simply e-mail us at
scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk

Scrutiny Priorities 2025/26

Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee

Continue to monitor **demand (and complexity of demand) on services** within the committee's Terms of Reference.

Closely monitor **budgets and funding** in the coming year, particularly schools - to ensure that appropriate support is provided when and if needed.

Continue to look at the impact of **ALN reform**, including ensuring that capacity can meet demand in this area via the ALN Scrutiny Inquiry.

Undertake mapping and scrutiny of **Engagement and Participation of Children and Young People**.

39 Continue to explore ways to ensuring that **all children and young people have equal access to sport**.

Receive regular feedback sessions on **School Improvement** - starting December 2025

Revisit earlier commitments agreed in relation to **Young People Educated Other than At School**

Explore services available and demand for **speech and language provision**.

Understand how education, children's services, and health board **work in partnership** to ensure young people get the support they need as soon as possible.

Continue to receive Schools Organisation Planning proposals and the **"Community Focussed Schools Programme"**

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

Continue to **support improvements** in Youth Services in Cardiff.

Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

Continue to monitor the progress of HRA Business Plan in achieving the **Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS)**.

Continue to monitor the Council's response to **homelessness**, including access and rent setting proposals.

Work with the Council to improve data collection around ethnicity, to better understand the range of **tenants** across the city.

Work to be undertaken to identify and engage with those from an **ethnic minority background** or those where English is not their first language.

Examine the development of core KPI's and outputs, in order to develop improved quality feedback from partners, service users and family and carers for those living with a **learning disability**.

Review of Cardiff & Vale Regional Partnership Board **Mental Health Services**

Update on the progress of Cabinet's September 2023 **Direct Payment Proposals** and service monitoring of needs being met

Review of the Adults, Housing and Communities **Directorate Delivery Plan**

Monitoring of Cardiff and Vale **Housing Partnerships** and how many of these properties are available for social housing

Monitoring of the **Age Friendly Action Plan**

Review of Care Policy for Adult Services which focuses on the commissioning framework arrangements for **care homes for older people**.

Completion of **Access and Experience of Adult Social Care Services for Ethnic Minority Communities** Task and Finish Group.

Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee

Continue to scrutinise major projects – including the **Atlantic Wharf** redevelopment, particularly Indoor Arena, Lloyd George Avenue and Red Dragon Centre, and **Cardiff Bay** regeneration, particularly International Sports Village, including progress resolving residents' concerns and use of facilities by schoolchildren

Scrutinise the impact and receive the formal evaluation of the **Shared Prosperity Fund** as well as follow-on arrangements and impact on service provision

Receive progress updates and consider future plans for **Football Facilities Strategic Framework, Central South Active Partnership, and Cardiff Market Restoration**

Consider proposed way forward for **Mansion House, Museum of Cardiff, and Cardiff Historical Collection**

Receive a progress update on **St. David's Hall**

Undertake a short scrutiny examining best practice in **city centre management**

Undertake policy development and pre-decision scrutiny of the **Tourism and Events Strategy**

Receive the Cabinet Response to our **Filming in Cardiff Inquiry**

Continue to undertake monitoring scrutiny of the contract with **Greenwich Leisure Limited** (GLL – Better Leisure)

Scrutinise proposals for **Roath Park Dam**

Examine proposals for the **Cardiff Harbour Authority** agreement with Welsh Government

Continue monitoring regional working – **Corporate Joint Committee** and **Western Gateway** – including joint scrutiny

Complete ongoing **Visitor Levy & Regulation Inquiry**

Undertake **performance and budget monitoring** scrutiny

Environmental Scrutiny Committee

Continue to monitor the rollout and efficiency of the Council's waste services strategy and how the Council achieves the **Welsh Government's statutory recycling target of 70%**, including plans for flats/HMOs and Recycle/Reuse facilities.

Review and support the development of a **new Recycling Strategy** for the city.

Ensure the Council is managing **Cardiff's biodiversity** and **natural environment** and incorporates these issues when considering wider pieces of work.

Monitor the implementation of the **final Castle Street plan** to improve the **Air Quality** in the area.

Continue to scrutinise the development of **Transport proposals** across Cardiff including **Bus Priority** routes, **Road User charging**, Cardiff **CrossRail**, **Active Travel**, and the effect on travel habits of residents and visitors to Cardiff.

Monitor the roll out of the **parking plan** and the introduction of parking zones across the city and the impact on residents.

Monitor the implementation of the **Bus Priority Strategy**.

Oversee and support the development of the **Green Growth Proposal** to take forward the carbon reduction agenda.

Examine **water quality in Cardiff Bay** and the processes in place to manage this.

Undertake **performance monitoring** and **budget monitoring**, including **bespoke 6-monthly performance reports** for the Planning, Transport and Environment Directorate.

Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee

A strong focus on **Council Performance** at year-end 2024/25 and mid-2025/26, aligned with the Corporate Plan 2025/28 priorities.

Engage with and review the Council's first **Performance Panel Assessment**.

Oversight of a new **Revenue Budget, Medium-Term Financial Plan Capital Programme** for 2026/27.

Monitor **Revenue and Capital budgets** throughout 2025/26.

Examine progress of the Council's **Digital** offer of increased support to citizens, development of digital services and use of automation to streamline administrative tasks.

Continue oversight of the Council's progress in delivering leaner and greener Council buildings, including a **new disposals programme** in line with targets in the **Corporate Property Strategy 2025/30**.

Monitor progress delivering the Corporate Property Strategy 2025/30 through scrutiny of the **Annual Property Plan 2025/26**.

Statutory scrutiny of partnership progress and the 2024/25 Annual Report of **Cardiff Public Service Board**.

Consider the effectiveness of proposals to use the power of the public purse to support the Council's ambitions via the **Socially Responsible Procurement Policy** and Strategy 2022/27.

Review stronger arrangements to support **business case delivery** across directorates.

Ongoing oversight of the **Workforce Strategy 2023/27**, ensuring the Council addresses Cardiff's diverse communities and has a representative workforce.

Scrutinise the review of the **Fleet Replacement Programme** – service requirements, future fleet management approach and Council approach to funding a fleet replacement programme to transition to clean vehicles.

This report is available in other languages.
Mae'r adroddiad hwn ar gael mewn ieithoedd eraill.

هذا التقرير متوفر بلغات أخرى

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यह रिपोर्ट अन्य भाषाओं में उपलब्ध है

Niniejszy raport jest dostępny w innych językach.

We'd love to hear from you. If you have any comments arising from this Annual Report or suggestions on topics you would like us to consider, please contact: scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk

Scrutiny ... engaging today ... shaping tomorrow

