

Scrutiny Board :	Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board
Report Title	Scrutiny Annual Update 2024-25
Date of Meeting	17 July 2025
Report Author	Alex Goddard, Scrutiny Lead Officer
Lead Officer	James McLaughlin, Assistant Chief Executive
Appendices (if any)	1. Draft Scrutiny Annual Update 2024-25

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The attached annual update outlines work undertaken by the Council's scrutiny function in 2024-25 and highlights a number of activities and outcomes that contributed towards the objectives of the Corporate Plan.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Board considers and comments upon the draft Scrutiny Annual Update 2024-25.
- 2.2 That, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, the Assistant Chief Executive finalises the report and submits it to Council on 21 October 2025.

3. Background and Context

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Annual Update 2024-25 provides an overview of the work of the Council's scrutiny boards throughout that year. Included are case studies showcasing different types of scrutiny activity.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 No consultation was required in the creation of the Scrutiny Annual Update, however during 2024-25 the scrutiny boards engaged a wide variety of witnesses from the Council and partner organisations and there was also engagement with service users and providers.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Any financial implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate Board and by the relevant director or cabinet member/Cabinet when considering resulting recommendations.

5.2 There are no financial implications arising from the Scrutiny Annual Update.

6. Legal and Governance Implications

6.1 Scrutiny boards discharge the functions conferred by section 12 of the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent legislation.

7. Risks

7.1 There are no risks associated with the Scrutiny Annual Update.

8. Equality and Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty)

8.1 The Scrutiny Annual Update has no equality and diversity implications.

9. How does this deliver the Outcomes in the Council Plan?

9.1 The scrutiny function supports all of the outcomes of the Council Plan by seeking to improve services for the people of Sandwell. It does this by influencing the policies and decisions made by the Council and other organisations involved in delivering public services, including the West Midlands Combined Authority and NHS partners.