

SECTION 7

7 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The Council is required by Law to discharge certain overview and scrutiny functions. These functions are an essential component of local democracy. Overview and Scrutiny Committees should be powerful committees that can contribute to the development of Council policies and also hold the Cabinet to account for its decisions. Another key part of the overview and scrutiny role is to review existing policies, consider proposals for new policies and suggest new policies.
- 7.1.2 Overview and scrutiny should be carried out in a constructive way and should aim to contribute to the delivery of efficient and effective services that meet the needs and aspirations of local inhabitants. Overview and Scrutiny Committees should not shy away from the need to challenge and question decisions and make constructive criticism.

7.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committees

In order to achieve this, the Council have appointed four Overview and Scrutiny Committees which between them will:

- 7.2.1 review or scrutinise decisions made, or actions taken, in connection with the discharge of any of the Council’s functions whether by the Cabinet or another part of the Council;
- 7.2.2 make reports or recommendations to the Council or the Cabinet in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- ~~7.2.3 review or scrutinise decisions made, or actions taken, by the Public Services Board;~~
- ~~7.2.4~~ 7.2.3 consider any matter which affects the Council’s area or its inhabitants; and
- ~~7.2.5~~ 7.2.4 exercise the right to call in for reconsideration decisions made but not yet implemented by the Cabinet and Officers.

7.3 Role, Scope and Membership

The role, scope and Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees are described in the table below:

Committee and Membership	Role and Scope
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Twelve County Borough Councillors (for consideration of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the service provision, planning, management and performance relating to corporate performance and governance;

Committee and Membership	Role and Scope
Education matters to include 5 Education Representatives).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider policies, protocols and plans relating to corporate performance and governance; • To co-ordinate the recommendations from each Overview and Scrutiny Committee upon the draft annual MTFs, including the budget savings proposals and comments upon the consultation process; • To scrutinise the performance and budget monitoring of all Directorates in the achievement of the corporate priorities; • To consider reports regarding any recommendations made by the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel regarding the performance of Bridgend's Public Service Board (PSB) in accordance with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and Guidance; • To scrutinise the Community Safety Partnership and its constituent bodies in respect of their community safety roles in accordance with the Crime and Disorder guidance; • To consider the Council's Corporate Plan and monitor progress against the Corporate Priorities; • To develop and implement a Forward Work Programme for the Committee having regard to the Council's Corporate Priorities and Risk Management Framework and have oversight and coordination of the Forward Work Programmes for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

7.4 Specific Functions

7.4.1 Policy Development and Review

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees may:

- 7.4.1.1 assist the Council and the Cabinet in the development of its Budget and Policy Framework by in depth analysis of policy issues;
- 7.4.1.2 conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- 7.4.1.3 question Members of the Cabinet and/or Committees and Chief Officers from the Council about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area;

7.4.1.4 liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interest of local people are enhanced by collaborative working; and

7.4.1.5 consider the impact of policies to assess if they have made a difference.

7.4.2 Scrutiny

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees may:

7.4.2.1 review and scrutinise the decisions by and performance of the Cabinet and/or Committees and Council Officers in relation to individual decisions and over time;

7.4.2.2 review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;

7.4.2.3 question Members of the Cabinet and/or Committees and Chief Officers from the Council about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or project;

7.4.2.4 make recommendations to the Cabinet and/or appropriate Committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;

7.4.2.5 review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and local people about their activities and performance; and

7.4.2.6 question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).

7.4.3 [Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#)[Scrutiny of the Public Services Board](#)

7.4.3.1 The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the additional functions of overseeing the work of the [Regional Public Service Board \(PSB\)](#) in accordance with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. [In accordance with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act, 2015 and taking into consideration the requirements of Section 58 of the Local Government \(Wales\) Measure 2011 and associated statutory guidance, a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee \(JOSC\) has been established comprising of 5 Elected Members from each of the three Local Authorities' \(Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councils\) Overview and Scrutiny Committees designated to scrutinise the work of the PSB as required by the Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act, 2015.](#)

7.4.3.2 [The overall aim of the JOSC is to scrutinise the overall effectiveness of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board \(the Board\). The core statutory functions of the JOSC are:-](#)

- [• To carry out functions in relation to the Board that are imposed on it by the Well-Being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015, including in particular as a statutory consultee upon the:](#)

- PSB Well-being Assessment;
- PSB Well-being Plan, and;
- To receive an Annual Report detailing the progress made towards meeting local Well-being objectives in the Well-being Plan.

- To review or scrutinise the decisions made or actions taken by Board;
- To review or scrutinise the Board's governance arrangements;
- To make reports or recommendations to the Board regarding its functions or governance arrangements;
- To consider matters relating to the Board as the Welsh Ministers may refer to it and report to the Welsh Ministers accordingly.

7.4.3.3

In addition to these functions the JOSC's Lines of Inquiry can include (but not be limited to the following):

- The effectiveness of the Wellbeing Assessment;
- The effectiveness of the Wellbeing Plan;
- The effectiveness of performance measurement arrangements;
- The level of commitment from individual partners to the work of the Public Services Board;
- The effectiveness of the Public Services Board in communicating its work, objectives and outcomes to its stakeholders; and,
- The effectiveness of the Public Services Board in addressing the issue of pooled funding to tackle priorities

7.4.3.4

The remit of the JOSC includes only the activities of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board as a partnership and excludes scrutiny of individual partner organisations. Existing legislation excludes any matter which could be considered by an Authority's Crime and Disorder Committee (sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006) from the work programmes of all other scrutiny committees, sub-committees and JOSCs.

7.4.3.5

Membership, Meetings and Reporting Arrangements for the JOSC shall be conducted in accordance with its approved Terms of Reference.

~~The Committee designate this responsibility to the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel to be able to carry out the following functions:~~

~~review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Public Services Board;~~

~~7.4.3.1 review or scrutinise the Public Services Board's governance arrangements;~~

~~7.4.3.2 make reports or recommendations to the Public Services Board with respect to the board's functions or governance arrangements;~~

~~7.4.3.3 consider such matters relating to the board as the Welsh Ministers may refer to it and to report to the Welsh Ministers accordingly; and~~

~~7.4.3.4 copy reports to the Public Services Board regarding the board's functions and governance arrangements to:—~~

~~7.4.3.4.1 the Welsh Ministers;~~

~~7.4.3.4.2 the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales; and~~

~~7.4.3.4.3 the Auditor General for Wales.~~

~~7.4.3.5 require one or more of the attendees at the Public Services Board, or anyone designated by such a person, to attend a meeting of the Public Services Board Scrutiny Panel and provide it with explanations of such matters as it may specify.~~

~~7.4.4 The Membership of the Scrutiny Panel is determined annually by the nomination of three Members from the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, one Member from each of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees and invitees from counterpart representatives that sit on the Public Service Board. Any recommendations made by the Panel are presented to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval prior to submission to the Board.~~