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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Bridgend County Borough Council



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*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg.
Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich
dewis iaith.*

*We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please
let us know if your language choice is Welsh.*



Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 / 643147 / 643694

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Friday, 11 December 2020

Dear Councillor,

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

A meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 will be held remotely via Skype for Business on **Thursday, 17 December 2020 at 09:30.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008.
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 6
To receive for approval the minutes of the 16/11/20
4. Verbal Update from the Corporate Director - Communities

Invitees

Janine Nightingale, Corporate Director - Communities
Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member Communities
Zak Shell, Head of Operations – Community Services

5. Forward Work Programme Update 7 - 10
6. Urgent Items
To consider any other item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Rule 4 (paragraph 4) of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

By receiving this Agenda Pack electronically you will save the Authority approx. £0.20 in printing costs

Note: Please note: Due to the current requirement for social distancing this meeting will not be held at its usual location. This will be a virtual meeting and Members and Officers will be attending remotely. The meeting will be recorded for subsequent transmission via the Council's internet site which will be available as soon as practicable after the meeting. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk or tel. 01656 643147 / 643148.

Yours faithfully

K Watson

Chief Officer, Legal, HR & Regulatory Services

Councillors:

JPD Blundell

N Clarke

P Davies

DK Edwards

DG Howells

DRW Lewis

Councillors

JR McCarthy

JC Radcliffe

RMI Shaw

JC Spanswick

RME Stirman

G Thomas

Councillors

E Venables

MC Voisey

LM Walters

JE Williams

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3
HELD IN REMOTELY VIA SKYPE ON MONDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 09:30

Present

Councillor JPD Blundell – Chairperson

N Clarke	P Davies	DK Edwards	DG Howells
DRW Lewis	JC Radcliffe	RMI Shaw	JC Spanswick
RME Stirman	G Thomas	E Venables	MC Voisey
LM Walters	JE Williams		

Officers:

Meryl Lawrence	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Rachel Pick	Scrutiny Officer
Tracy Watson	Scrutiny Officer

106. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

107. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of a meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 dated 14 November 2019 and 23 January 2020 be approved as a true and accurate record.

108. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Scrutiny Officer presented the report. She advised that following the lockdown in March, Scrutiny Committees were initially postponed as the Council focused upon key priorities in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. A report to Cabinet in June requested that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the creation of a Cross-Party Recovery Panel, which, at their meeting in July, approved and established a panel with the aim of shaping, informing and advising Cabinet on the Council's recovery planning to form the basis of the recovery phase of the pandemic. The Panel met six times in August and produced recommendations to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September, which were reported to Cabinet a week later. A formal response from Cabinet was expected shortly. The Recovery Panel was now awaiting the Public Service Board's Community Impact Assessment to consider the findings, before selecting its next area of focus to be examined in greater detail.

A combined meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees 1 and 2 took place in July to consider reports on Post 16 Education and Learner Travel. This had been postponed from March. Recommendations for Post-16 Education were considered by Cabinet in July, who took a decision on the preferred option and then considered the recommendations upon Learner Travel in September, deferring the decision to amend the Local Authority's Learner Travel Policy until after the review of the current statutory distances by Welsh Government in March 2021.

The Budget Research and Evaluation Panel meetings commenced in July. Four meetings had taken place to date, with the final meeting scheduled for December.

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 - MONDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2020

The Schedule of Meetings for the remaining municipal year had been agreed at Annual Council in September and, as the Recovery Panel had now been established, it was recognised that, moving forward, meetings of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees would need to be focused and strategic to avoid a duplication of work.

The Council had since been advised that the Local Government Financial Settlement from Welsh Government would be later than expected. This meant that scrutiny of the Medium Term Financial Strategy would need to be considered by Scrutiny Committees after Cabinet considered the draft proposals on 19 January, and not in the December cycle of meetings as originally planned. Consequently, arrangements would be made to move the dates of the January meetings to facilitate this, and an announcement would be made at Council on 18 November.

With these changes in mind, it was proposed that, at its next meeting on the 17 December, it would be timely that the Committee received a verbal update briefing from the Corporate Director upon the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic upon the Communities Service area, and the operational response.

With regards to the meetings of scrutiny after the MTFS, the Committee was asked to identify any further items for consideration on the interim Forward Work Programme for the remainder of the municipal calendar of meetings. There needed to be an emphasis on consideration of issues such as impact, risk, performance, budget and community perception when identifying topics for investigation. The Committee would have the opportunity at each meeting to revisit its Forward Work Programme and the Scrutiny Officer suggested that Members may wish to wait until the next meeting of the Committee to set further topics, following the verbal update from the Corporate Director.

The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) Questioning Skills Training for Scrutiny Members and Training for Scrutiny Chairs had been postponed due to the national lockdown. The WLGA was now able to offer this training via Microsoft Teams. It was therefore proposed that two sessions be arranged: one session of Scrutiny Questioning Skills for all Scrutiny Members and One session of Scrutiny Chairs' Training for all Committee and Panel Chairs. Dates were to be confirmed.

A Member asked that an update on Enforcement be included as part of the Verbal presentation, as he explained that it had been suspended at one point. It was about knowing where we are and when we get back to the new normal, or an improved enforcement in the future.

A Member asked what she would really like to understand is, as the teams are not working together, what controls have had to be relaxed or changed, and what has been newly embedded across all of the teams to ensure there is oversight of the actions that have been taken for the new ways of working. In addition, what services have been most impacted through Covid-19, e.g. scale and hotspots, and what pressures are we going to have and how long is it going to take to recover from the delays we have already had.

There were no further items identified for consideration on the Forward Work Programme for the remainder of the municipal calendar of meetings using the agreed form, and this could be revisited at the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee confirmed the proposed initial items for the Committee's Forward Work Programme set out in paragraphs 4.3 and 4.4 of the report.

That the Committee requested that the above specific information be included in the item for the next meeting; the verbal update briefing from the Corporate Director.

109. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION NOMINATION REPORT

The Chief Officer – Legal, HR & Regulatory Services submitted a report, the purpose of which was to request the Committee to nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

The Chairperson invited nominations from the floor, following which it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor J Radcliffe be nominated to represent Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 as an Invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

110. NOMINATION TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD SCRUTINY PANEL

The Chief Officer – Legal, HR & Regulatory Services submitted a report, the purpose of which was to request the Committee to nominate one Member to sit on the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel.

The Chairperson invited nominations from the floor, following which it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor P Davies be nominated as the representative of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 to sit as a Member of the Public Service Board Scrutiny Panel.

111. URGENT ITEMS

None.

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3

17 DECEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL, HR & REGULATORY SERVICES

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose of the report

- a) To present the draft interim Forward Work Programme, including those items delegated to this Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees;
- b) To request the Committee to identify any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme for the remainder of the municipal calendar of meetings, using the agreed criteria form.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 Under the terms of Bridgend County Borough Council's Constitution, each Overview and Scrutiny Committee must publish a Forward Work Programme (FWP) as far as it is known.

- 3.2 An effective FWP will identify the issues that the Committee wishes to focus on during the year and provide a clear rationale as to why particular issues have been selected, as well as the approach that will be adopted; i.e. will the Committee be undertaking a policy review/ development role (“Overview”) or performance management approach (“Scrutiny”).
- 3.3 The FWPs will remain flexible and will be revisited at each COSC meeting with input from each SOSC and any information gathered from FWP meetings with Corporate Directors and Cabinet.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to note the next topic they have been allocated by the COSC in the Table below:

Scrutiny Committee:	Date:	Report:
Combined Scrutiny Committee of all Scrutiny Members for	Wednesday 20 th January 2021 at 10am	Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy for: - Education & Family Support; - Communities.
Combined Scrutiny Committee of all Scrutiny Members for	Thursday, 21 st January 2021 at 10am	Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy for: - Social Services & Wellbeing; - Chief Executive’s.

and to request the Committee to identify any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme for the remainder of the municipal calendar of meetings, using the agreed criteria form.

Corporate Parenting

- 4.2 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the ‘corporate parent’, therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend.
- 4.3 In this role, it is suggested that Members consider how each item they consider affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way can the Committee assist in these areas.
- 4.4 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee in this by advising them of the ongoing work of the Cabinet-Committee and particularly any decisions or changes, which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.

Identification of Further Items

- 4.5 The Committee are reminded of the Criteria form, which Members can use to propose further items for the FWP, which the Committee can then consider for prioritisation at a future meeting. The Criteria Form emphasises the need to consider issues such as impact, risk, performance, budget and community perception when identifying topics for investigation and to ensure a strategic responsibility for Scrutiny and that its work benefits the organisation.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 The work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Council's Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend. Any changes to the structure of the Scrutiny Committees and the procedures relating to them would require the Bridgend County Borough Council constitution to be updated.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no equality implications attached to this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Implications

- 7.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

- Long-term - The approval of this report will assist in the Planning of Scrutiny business in both the short-term and in the long-term on its policies, budget and service delivery
- Prevention - The early preparation of the Forward Work Programme allows for the advance planning of Scrutiny business where Members are provided an opportunity to influence and improve decisions before they are made by Cabinet
- Integration - The report supports all the wellbeing objectives
- Collaboration - Consultation on the content of the Forward Work Programme has taken place with the Corporate Management Board, Heads of Service, Elected Members and members of the public.
- Involvement - Advanced publication of the Forward Work Programme ensures

that the public and stakeholders can view topics that will be discussed in Committee meetings and are provided with the opportunity to engage.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The delivery of the Forward Work Programme will be met from within existing resources for Overview and Scrutiny support.

9. Recommendations

9.1 The Committee is recommended:

- a) To note the next item for the draft interim Forward Work Programme, including those items delegated to this Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- b) To identify any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme for the remainder of the municipal calendar of meetings, using the agreed criteria form.

K Watson
Chief Officer - Legal, HR & Regulatory Services
11 December 2020

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Scrutiny Officer

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Background documents: None