

CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2023

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2023 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor A Williams – Chairperson

Present Virtually

H T Bennett
F D Bletsoe

RM Granville
S J Griffiths

M L Hughes
AJ Williams

RL Penhale -Thomas
T Thomas

Apologies for Absence

P Davies and M Jones

Officers:

Mark Shephard
Carys Lord
Lindsay Harvey
Claire Marchant
Janine Nightingale
Kelly Watson
Alex Rawlin
Kate Pask
Martin Morgans
Philip O'Brien
Zoe Edwards
Meryl Lawrence
Stephen Griffiths

Chief Executive
Chief Officer - Finance, Performance & Change
Corporate Director - Education and Family Support
Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Corporate Director - Communities
Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services
Corporate Policy & Public Affairs Manager
Corporate Improvement Officer - Performance
Head of Partnership Services
Group Manager Transformation and Customer Services
Consultation, Engagement and Equalities Manager
Senior Democratic Services Officer – Scrutiny
Interim Scrutiny Officer

CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2023

Invitees

Councillor HJ David
Councillor J Gebbie
Councillor H Williams
Councillor J Spanswick
Councillor JP Blundell
Councillor N Farr

Leader of the Council
Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services
Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Legal
Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment
Cabinet Member for Education
Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Wellbeing

Declarations of Interest

None

94. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	RESOLVED: The Minutes of 23 October 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	14 December 2023

95. Quarter 2 Performance 2023-24

Decision Made	<p>RESOLVED: Following detailed consideration and discussions with Cabinet Members and Officers the Committee made the following Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That Directorates complete the narrative section of their Performance Dashboards as completely as possible, to demonstrate where corrective actions are in place, what is being done in mitigation or to remove barriers.2. That following discussion of examples where the same narrative had been reported for more than one commitment, or for both Progress this Period and Next Steps for the same commitments, consideration be given to how the next steps and actions can be collated into an action plan for ongoing monitoring.
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CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2023

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. That Local Members be invited to a Briefing Session for those interested in Self Build Homes opportunities and be requested to identify any potential land for sites in their communities.4. That better links and working together regarding tree planting with Town and Community Councils be referred to the Town and Community Council Forum as an item for discussion.5. That the existing number of Blue Flag beaches and Green Flag parks be added to those PIs for the Quarter 3 Dashboard if they are within the correct period or clarified in the narrative if not, and that both these indicators be changed to Annual Indicators.6. That the Committee write a letter to the Welsh Minister for Finance expressing that national policy commitments be fully funded both in terms of capital funding and ongoing revenue funding and that core responsibilities should not be diluted by not fully funding national policy commitments, such as Active Travel, 20 miles per hour zone, Universal Primary Free School Meals and School Modernisation, etc. <p><u>Additional Information</u></p> <p>Following detailed consideration and discussions the Committee requested:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">7. That previous Performance Information data for Disabled Facilities Grants be broken down to include trend analysis for the next Quarter's Performance onwards and a briefing paper on the progress to date be provided for circulation to COSC Members to provide assurance.8. The Heronsbridge Inspection Report.9. An Update on the number of CATs progressing and the stages from the latest monthly spreadsheet report.
Date Decision Made	14 December 2023

96. Engagement and Participation Strategy

CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2023

Decision Made	<p>RESOLVED: Following detailed consideration and discussions with Cabinet Members and Officers, the Committee made the following Recommendations:</p> <p>10. The Committee acknowledged the aims and objectives of the draft strategy and highlighted that how to address the following issues should be included in an action plan for how the Strategy will be implemented and monitored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The website is not the easiest to navigate - The number of clicks from the home page to the Agenda for meetings - Who to follow via social media and how often social media is used - What is planned to ensure effectiveness in engaging with the public through visual content rather than just written content - The low number of E petitions being received since May 2022 - How to encourage public to observe meetings and engage - How to measure levels of engagement and the impact of consultation - How to engage with children and young people <p>11. That following the consultation the Action Plan developed for the strategy be added to the Forward Work Programme at the appropriate time, to monitor progress of the implementation.</p> <p><u>Additional Information</u></p> <p>Following detailed consideration and discussions the Committee requested:</p> <p>12. The Peer Review report on Communications.</p> <p>13. Statistics for call rates and answering times and identification of the busy and less busy calling times.</p>
Date Decision Made	14 December 2023

97. Forward Work Programme Update

Decision Made	<p>RESOLVED: The Committee approved its FWP in Appendix A subject to the additions and amendments listed below, noted the FWPs for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees in Appendix C, D and E, and noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheets to track responses to the Committees' recommendations made at previous meetings in Appendices B, F, G and H:</p>
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CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2023

	<p>a. The Committee agreed to review whether to add a future report on Disabled Facilities Grants to their FWP or refer it to SOSC 3 for consideration, after receipt of the briefing paper on progress to date, requested in 7 above.</p> <p>b. The Committee noted that the Blue Badge Public Consultation was scheduled to take place in Autumn 2023 in the response provided to 24 July 2023 Recommendations Monitoring and asked for an update on the response to be requested.</p>
Date Decision Made	14 December 2023

98. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None.
Date Decision Made	14 December 2023

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#) for Part One and this [link](#) for Part Two.

The meeting closed at 13:55.