

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 OCTOBER 2017

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2017-18

1. Purpose of Report.

1.1 To present:

- a) the items due to be considered at the Committee's meeting to be held on 15 November 2017 and seek confirmation of the information required for the subsequent scheduled meeting to be held on 14 December 2017;
- b) a list of responses to comments, recommendations and requests for additional information from the previous meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- c) a list of potential Forward Work Programme items for formal prioritisation and allocation to each of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2016–2020 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The Corporate Improvement Objectives were adopted by Council on 1 March 2017 and formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2016 and 2020. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

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").

Feedback

- 3.3 All conclusions made at Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings, as well as recommendations and requests for information should be responded to by Officers, to ensure that there are clear outcomes from each topic investigated.
- 3.4 These will then be presented to the relevant Scrutiny Committee at their next meeting to ensure that they have had a response.
- 3.5 For Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees (SOSC), when each topic has been considered and the Committee is satisfied with the outcome, the SOSC will then present their findings to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) who will determine whether to remove the item from the FWP or to re-add for further prioritisation at a future date.
- 3.6 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 Attached at **Appendix A** is the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny forward work programme which includes the items scheduled for the next two meetings to be held on 15 November and the 14 December. It is for the Committee to determine any further detail to request as part of these reports including any additional invitees they wish to attend to assist the Committee in its deliberations. Members may also wish to consider the feedback and responses from their previous Committee meeting attached at **Appendix B** when determining this detail and any future items.
- 4.2 In addition to this, the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee have responsibility for setting and prioritising the overall forward work programme for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 4.3 Attached at **Appendix C** is the overall FWP which includes the topics prioritised and agreed by the COSC for the next set of SOSCs in Table A, as well as a list of topics prioritised by each SOSC for the following 2 meetings at Table B. The list of items in Table B require formal prioritisation by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and allocation back to each Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee for investigation.
- 4.4 Table C incorporates items that were deemed important for future prioritisation. All lists have been compiled from suggested items at meetings of each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. It also includes information proposed from Corporate Directors, detail from research undertaken by Scrutiny Officers and information from FWP Development meetings between the Scrutiny Chairs and Cabinet.
- 4.5 It is worth noting that the Appendices omit the meetings in December 2017 which are scheduled for consideration of the draft budget proposals with the following allocations:

Date	Committee	Directorate Budget Proposals
4 December 2017	SOSC 1	Education and Family Support
6 December 2017	SOSC 3	Communities

7 December 2017	SOSC 2	Social Services and Wellbeing
14 December	COSC	Finance/ Operational and Partnerships Services

- 4.6 Members are reminded that any new items to the Scrutiny FWP are submitted via the Criteria Form for presentation back to the Committee and formal agreement that it be added.

Corporate Parenting

- 4.7 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.¹
- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 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

- 4.10 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 & Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 The work of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the 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.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no equality impacts arising directly from this report.

7. Financial Implications.

¹ Welsh Assembly Government and Welsh Local Government Association 'If this were my child... A councillor's guide to being a good corporate parent to children in care and care leavers', June 2009

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

8. Recommendation.

8.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Note the topics attached at Appendix A to be considered at the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 15 November 2017 and confirm if it requires any additional specific information to be provided in the report or any further invitees to attend;
- b) Note the list of responses to comments, recommendations and requests for additional information including any still outstanding from the previous meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee attached at Appendix B.
- c) Revisit and consider the list of future potential items for the Committees own Forward Work Programme and reprioritise as the Committees feels appropriate;
- d) Consider the feedback from the SOSCs on their previous items which has been incorporated into Appendix C and determine a response for the FWP;
- e) Agree three priority topics from the list of items attached at Appendix C, identify any further detail and allocate as appropriate to the Subject Committees for their next meetings;
- f) Identify three further priority topics from the list of items attached at Appendix C as an indication of the possible items for future allocation to the Subject Committees;
- e) Identify suitable items for Webcasting from both the COSC's and the SOSCs' Forward Work Programmes.

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Background documents

None